Shojo Beat Manga

Heaven's Will

A Poem of Atonement

Complete in one volume

Satoru Takamiya

Shojo Beat

Heaven's Will

A Poem of Atonement

Sudou Mikuzu has a very special talent—she can see ghosts. And because of this predisposition, she's become a magnet for all sorts of unwelcome monsters. Luckily for her, she's just met Seto, a friendly, cross-dressing young exorcist. Sudou needs protection from all the creepy phantoms bugging her, and Seto needs to practice his exorcism skills. Consequently, the pair decides to team up and help each other. In return, Sudou promises to bake a cake every time a ghost gets zapped!

The U.S. debut of the popular teen goth romance!

and Art by

Satoru Takamiya

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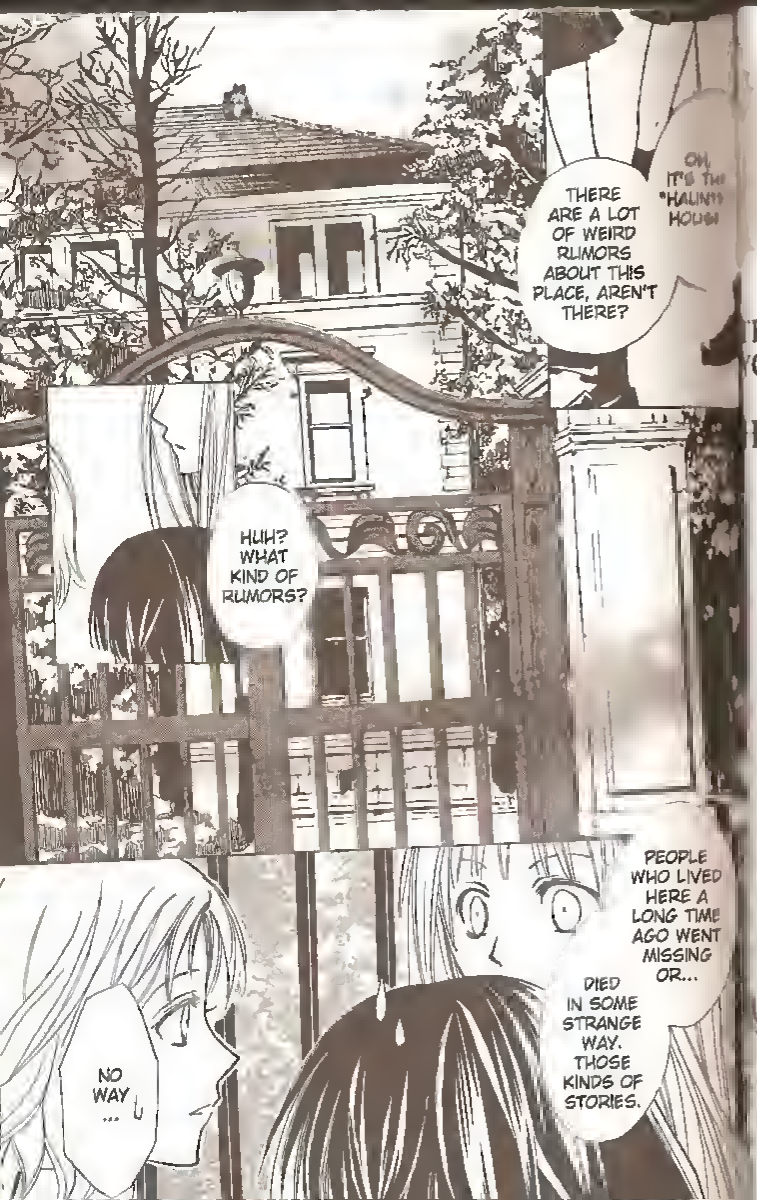
Story & Art by

Satoru Takaguchi


OH, IT'S THE "HAUNTED HOUSE"
THERE ARE A LOT OF WEIRD RUMORS ABOUT THIS PLACE, AREN'T THERE?
HUH? WHAT KIND OF RUMORS?
PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE A LONG TIME AGO WENT MISSING OR...
DIED IN SOME STRANGE WAY. THOSE KINDS OF STORIES.
NO WAY ...

Heaven's Will

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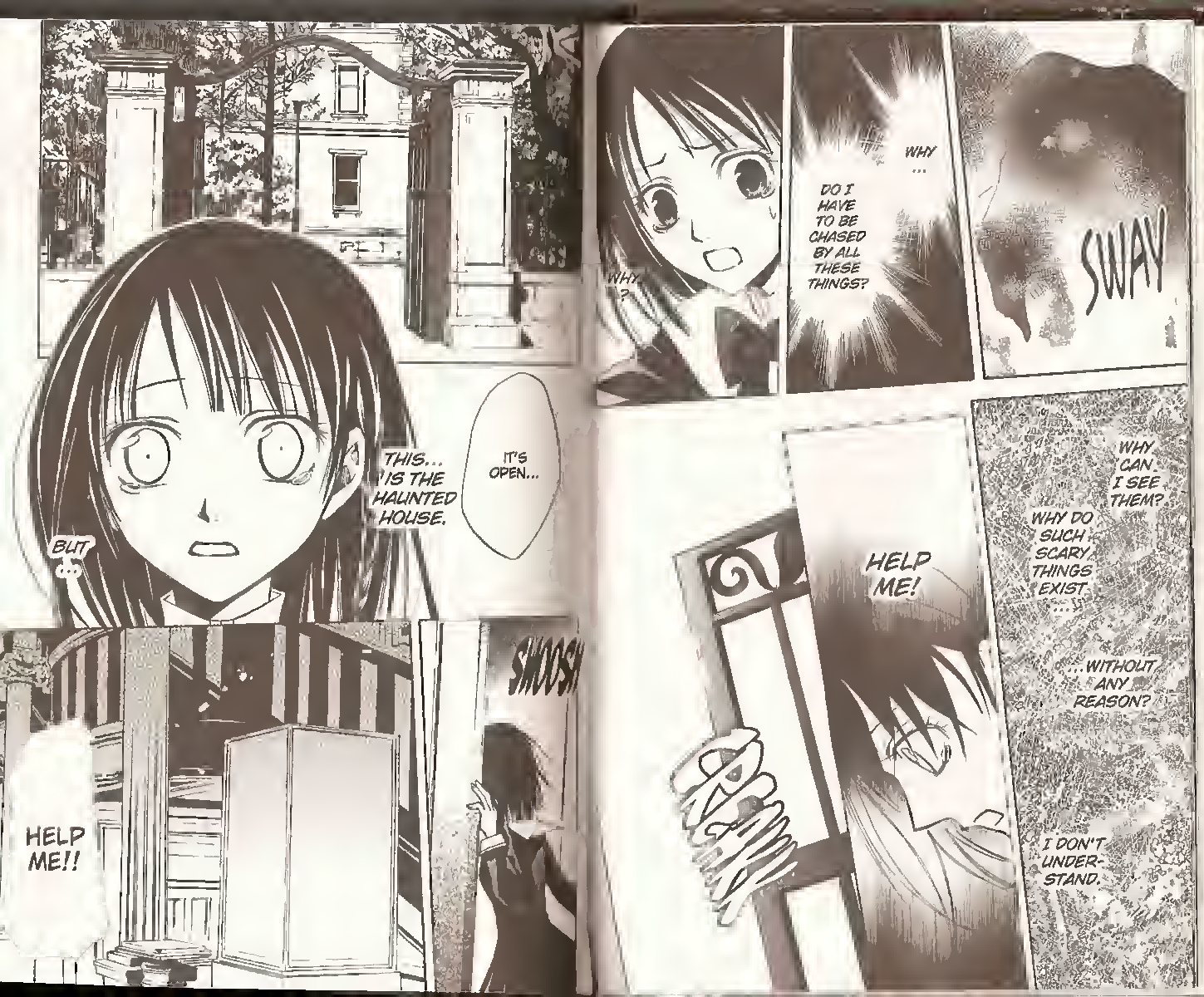
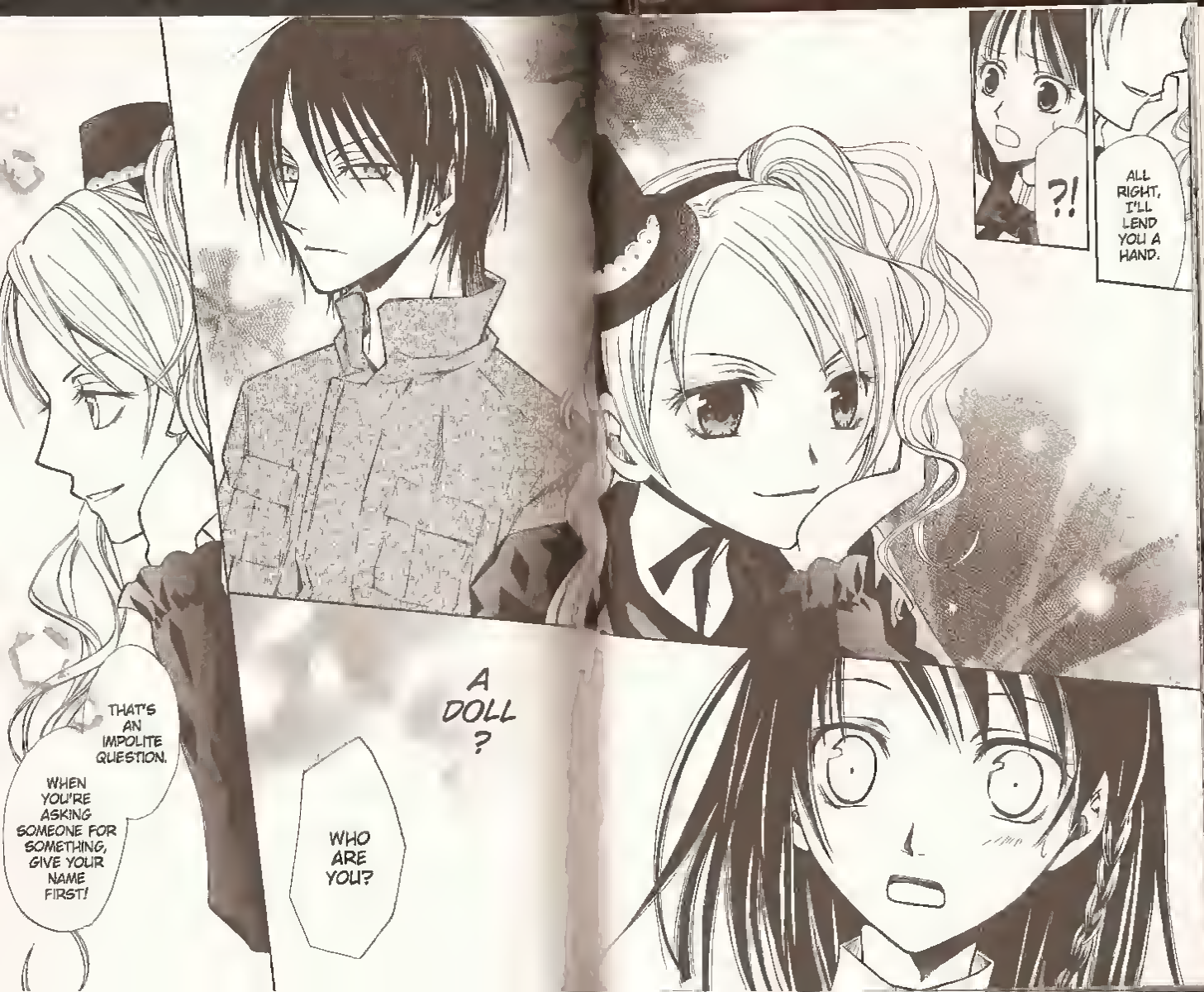
THE HEAVEN TO WHICH YOU WILL SOMEDAY RETURN
DON'T SAY SUCH SCARY THINGS...
MIKUZU SUDOU.
I HATE SCARY THINGS.

I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ...
JUST A BUG...
IT...IT'S NOTHING ...
BECAUSE I HAVE TROUBLE GETTING PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE THEM TO BELIEVE ME...
WHAT'S WRONG MIKUZU
YEAH.
THEY DON'T EXIST TO PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE THEM BUT...
IT'S OKAY. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS.
MIKUZU, YOU'RE TOO EASILY SCARED.
TO PEOPLE WHO CAN...
Sorry Sorry
STOP SAYING STALKER, IT'S TOO SCARY...
YOUR STALKER, MIKUZU.
HE'S HERE AGAIN
OR FIST FIGHTING... ALL SCARY THINGS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.
LIKE STALKING WOMEN... OR GROPING THEM...
WHY DO MEN DO SUCH FRIGHTENING THINGS
MIKUZU ?!
NOOOO!
THWACK THWACK
GHOULS AND GHOSTS AND FAIRIES...
...EXIST ALL OVER THE PLACE.
SLITHER
!!

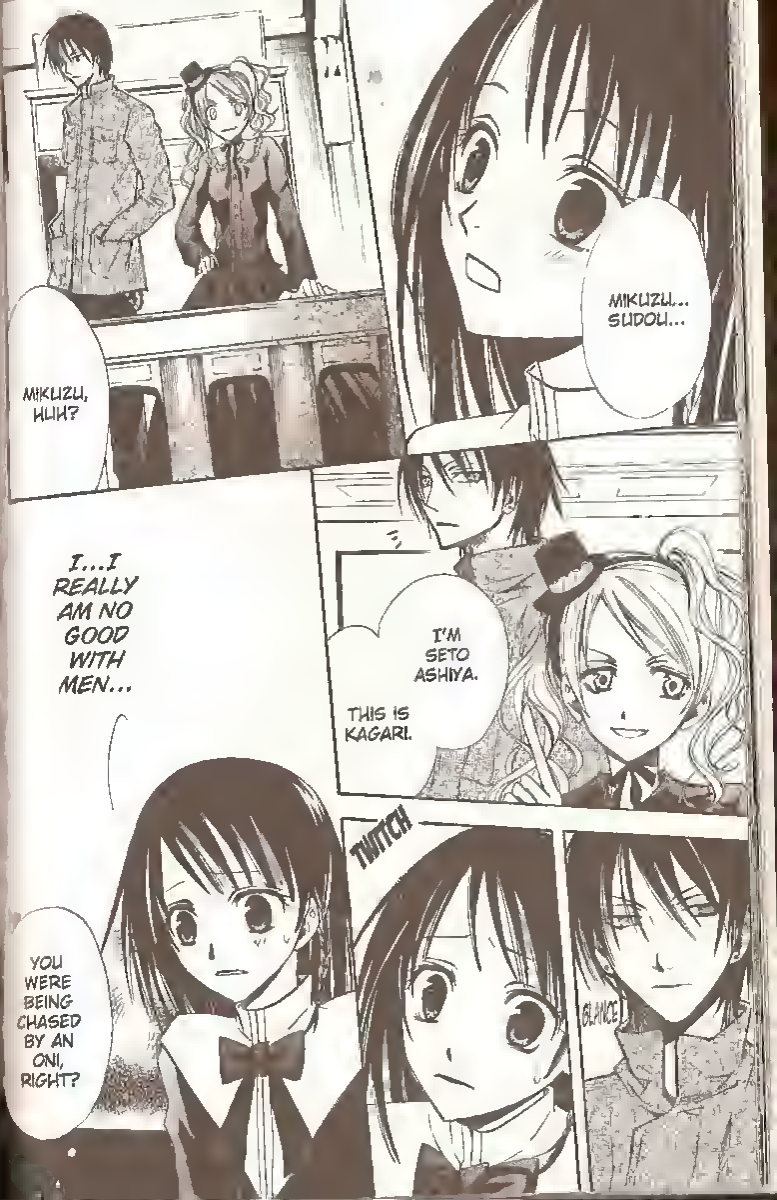
MEN.
GHOSTS AND SPIRITS
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM.
THEY'RE FRIGHTENING.
THE SITUATION I'M IN IS BOTH BAFFLING AND FRIGHTENING.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT...
IT'S ALL THE SAME.
THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND ARE FRIGHTENING.
RUSTLE
NO...

HUH?
I DON'T THINK ALL GUYS ARE LIKE THAT, THOUGH.
NO...
PLEASE LET ME GO!
SQUEEZE
LET ME GO ...
MIKU-ZU!
BAM
RUN!!

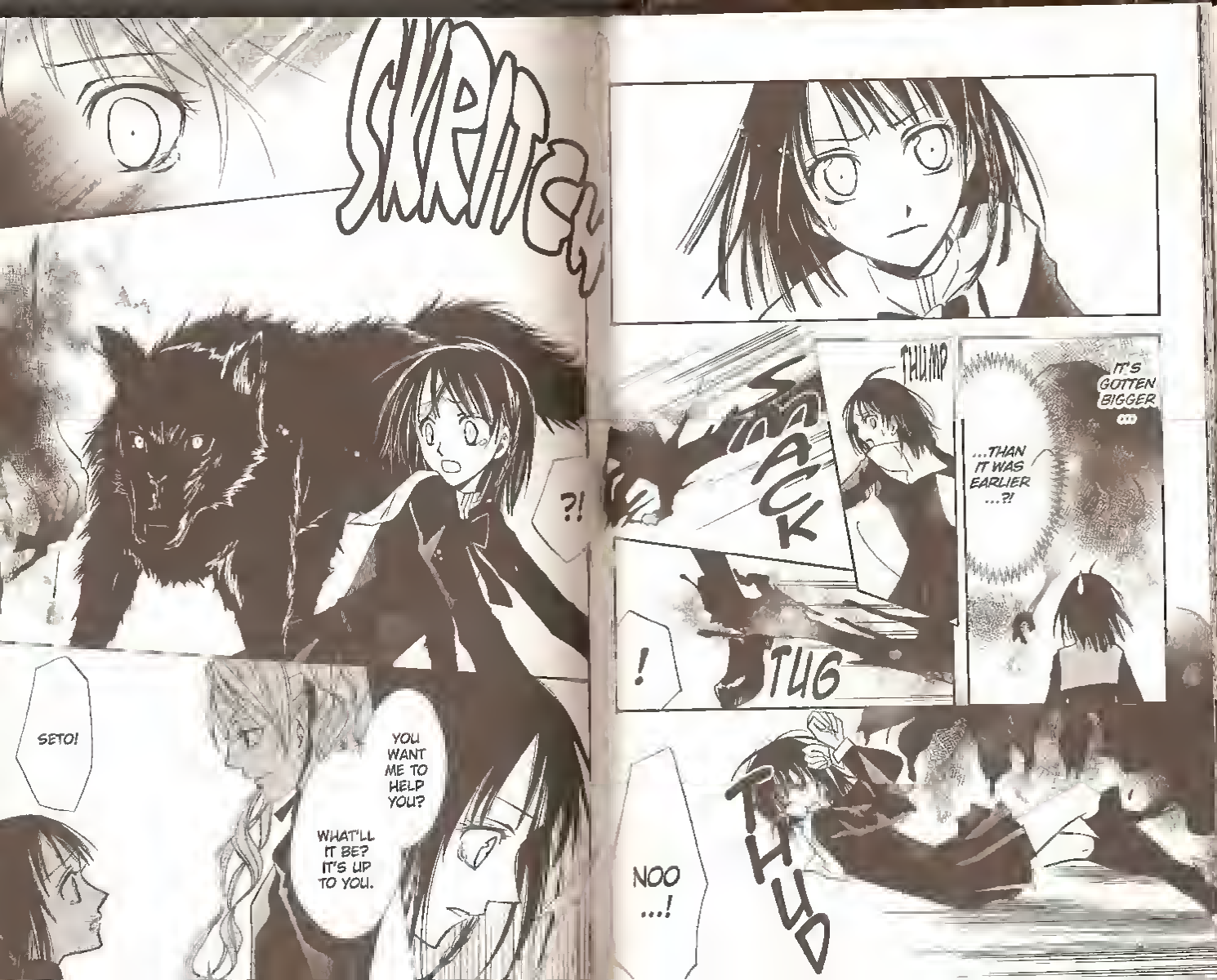

THIS... IS THE HAUNTED HOUSE.
IT'S OPEN...
BUT...
SWOOSH
HELP ME!!
WHY...?
WHY ... DO I HAVE TO BE CHASED BY ALL THESE THINGS?
SWAY
HELP ME!
WHY CAN I SEE THEM?
WHY DO SUCH SCARY THINGS EXIST ...
... WITHOUT ANY REASON?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.


ALL RIGHT, I'LL LEND YOU A HAND.
?!
A DOLL ?
WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S AN IMPOLITE QUESTION.
WHEN YOU'RE ASKING SOMEONE FOR SOMETHING, GIVE YOUR NAME FIRST!

ONI?
GHOSTS AND MONSTERS ...
DEMONS AND ALL OTHER MYSTERIOUS AND FRIGHTENING THINGS ...
...ARE CALLED ONI.
YOU MEAN EXORCIZE ?!
YOU CAN GET RID OF THOSE SCARY THINGS?
...WHO DRIVES AWAY THESE ONI.
AND I AM SOMEONE ...


MIKUZU, HUH?
MIKUZU... SUDOU...
I'M SETO ASHIYA.
THIS IS KAGARI.
I...I REALLY AM NO GOOD WITH MEN...
YOU WERE BEING CHASED BY AN ONI, RIGHT?
TWITCH
GLANCE

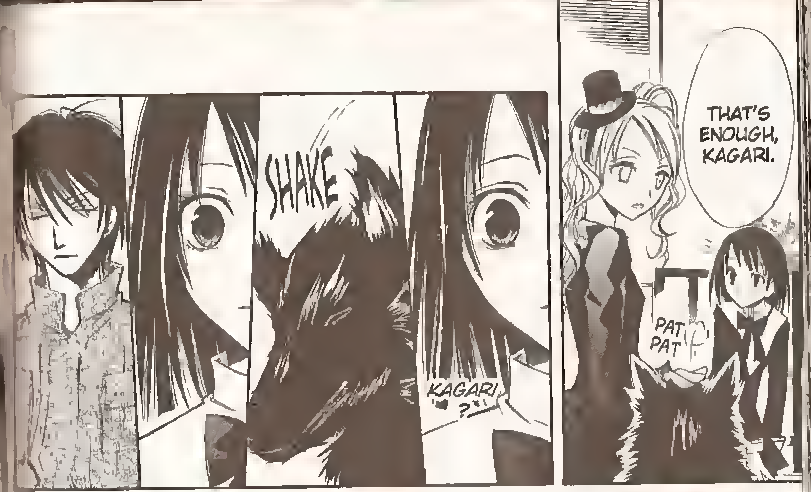
...THAT'S WEIRD.
EVEN IF YOU S...? IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE, OR BECAUSE GIRLS' CLOTHES LOOK GOOD ON YOU...
BECAUSE I'M CUTE!
HUH? BECAUSE THEY LOOK GOOD ON YOU?
Really? Hmm...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I JUST REMEMBERED THIS IS A HAUNTED HOUSE!
...SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? SHE RAN AWAY.
IT DOES MATTER!
...A GIRL LIKE THAT? WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
OH, WAIT!
I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANY WEIRD PEOPLE!!
AFTER ALL, SHE'S GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON ME.
THAT'S FINE!
RATS! I LET HER GET AWAY.
SLAM
I'M SO JEALOUS... I WANT TO BECOME STRONG TOO...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GIRL, YOU'RE STRONG...
WOW!
IT'S NOTHING.
THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL?!
SHE'S A BOY?
HUH?
SETO'S A GUY.
GLOAT
BECAUSE THEY LOOK GOOD ON ME!
WHY ARE YOU WEARING ...?
?!
?


SILENCE
?!
SETO!
YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU?
WHAT'LL IT BE? IT'S UP TO YOU.
!
SNAP
TUG
THUMP
...THAN IT WAS EARLIER ...?!
IT'S GOTTEN BIGGER ...
NOO ...!
THUD

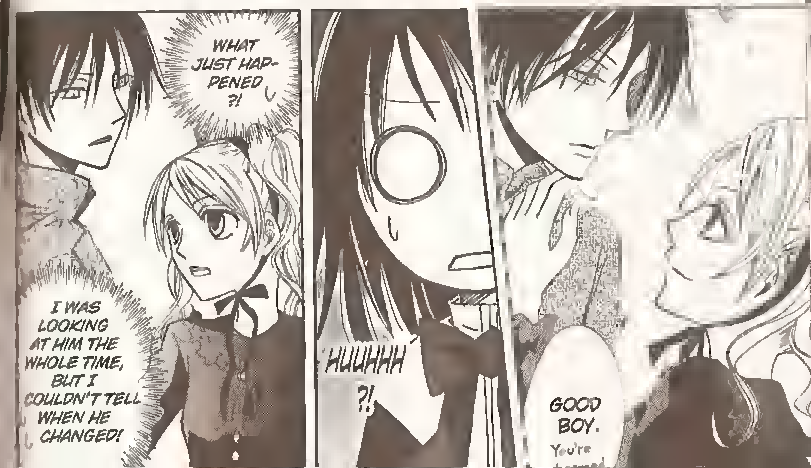
WOW... YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
I'M JEALOUS OF HOW STRONG YOU ARE ...
SWISH
TWITCH
SO THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BECOME STRONG TOO, MIKUZU.
STRONG ...
BA-BUMP
STRONG ...

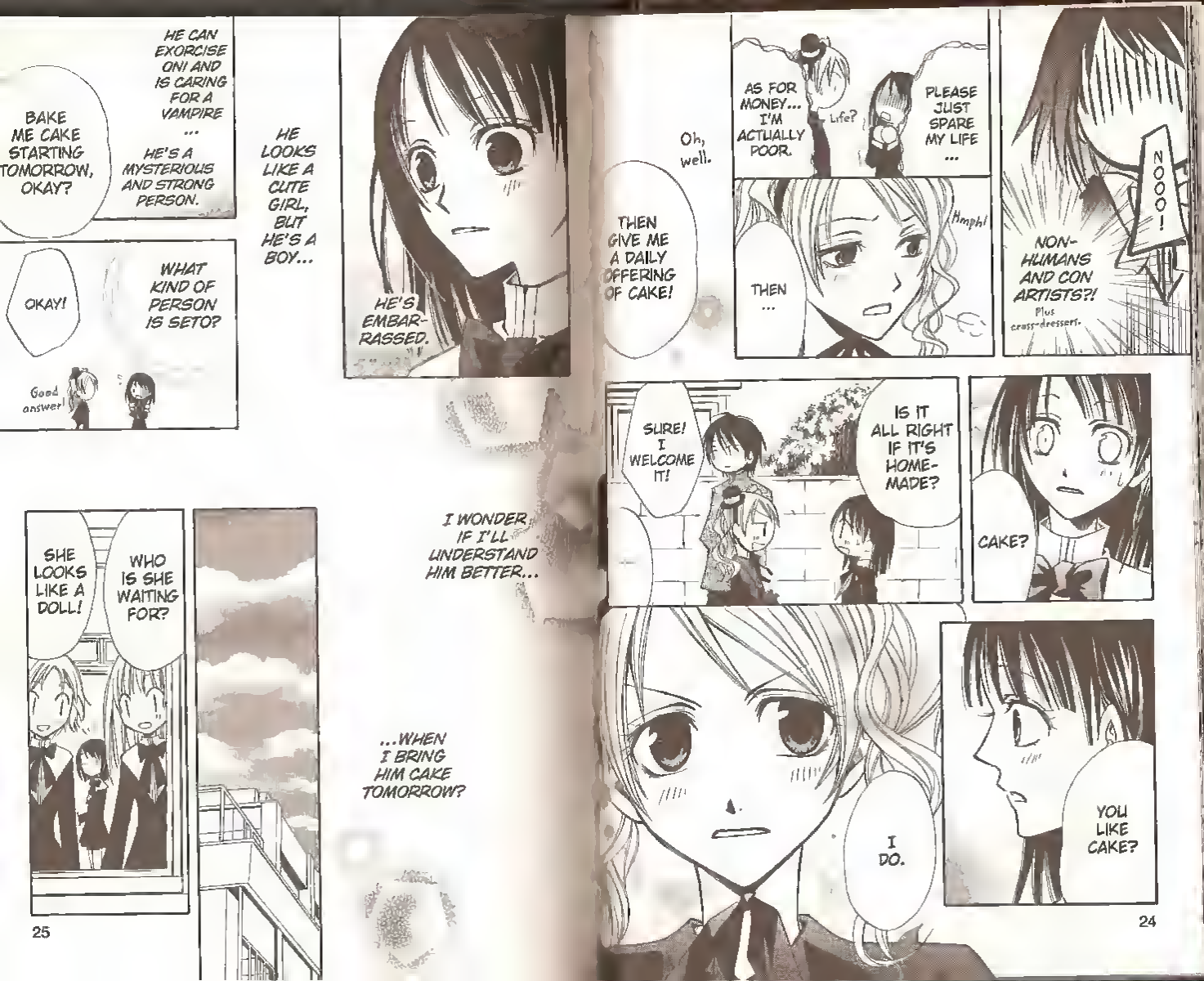
I'M STILL SCARED.
BUT ...
HE CAME TO SAVE ME.
ALL RIGHT!
SWISH
IT GOT AWAY.
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!

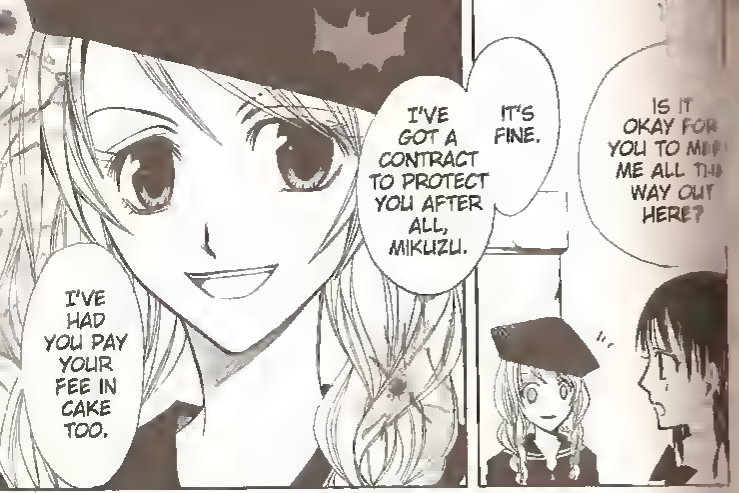
THAT WASN'T A DOGGY, IT WAS A WOLF.
KAGARI IS A VAMPIRE WHO CAN TURN INTO A WOLF.
WHY DID THE BLACK DOGGY ...
...TURN INTO KAGARI ?!
VAMPIRE ?!
I'M NOT A DOG.
OH, BY THE WAY, I'M A HUMAN.
IT'S FINE IF YOU THINK OF HIM AS ONE.
WELL, HE'S KIND OF LIKE MY PET DOG SO...
GRIN
WELL THEN!
SINCE WE'VE MADE A CONTRACT FOR ME TO EXORCIZE YOUR ONI, LET'S TALK ABOUT PAYMENT.
I'LL TAKE 70 PERCENT OF YOUR YEARLY INCOME!
That means your allowance
HE'S NOT HUMAN ?!
Noooo!

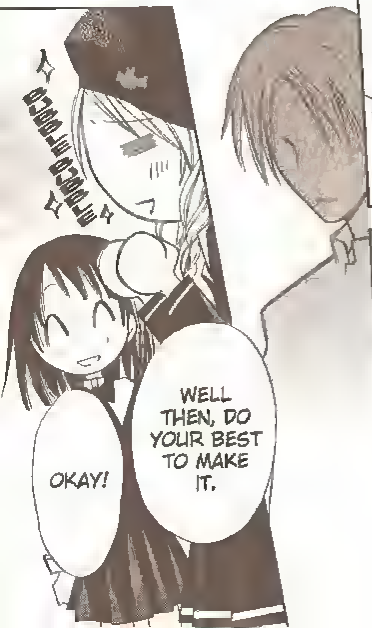

SHAKE
KAGARI ?!
THAT'S ENOUGH, KAGARI.
PAT PAT

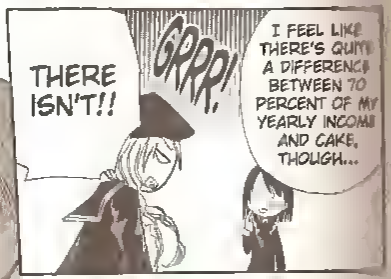
HUH?


WHAT JUST HAP-PENED ?!
I WAS LOOKING AT HIM THE WHOLE TIME, BUT I COULDN'T TELL WHEN HE CHANGED!
HUUHHH ?!
GOOD BOY.
You're

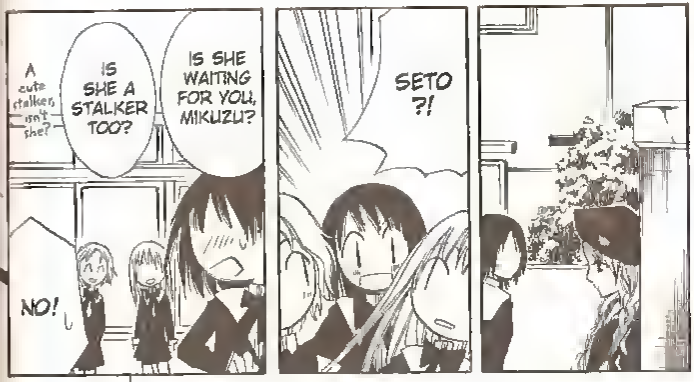

NOOO!
NON-HUMANS AND CON ARTISTS?!
Plus cross-dressers.
Hmph!
THEN ...
Life?
AS FOR MONEY... I'M ACTUALLY POOR.
PLEASE JUST SPARE MY LIFE ...
Oh, well.
THEN GIVE ME A DAILY OFFERING OF CAKE!
SURE! I WELCOME IT!
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF IT'S HOME-MADE?
CAKE?
I DO.
YOU LIKE CAKE?
24
HE CAN EXORCISE ONI AND IS CARING FOR A VAMPIRE ...
HE'S A MYSTERIOUS AND STRONG PERSON.
BAKE ME CAKE STARTING TOMORROW, OKAY?
OKAY!
Good answer!
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SETO?
HE LOOKS LIKE A CUTE GIRL, BUT HE'S A BOY...
HE'S EMBARRASSED.
I WONDER IF I'LL UNDERSTAND HIM BETTER...
...WHEN I BRING HIM CAKE TOMORROW?
SHE LOOKS LIKE A DOLL!
WHO IS SHE WAITING FOR?
25


I'VE HAD YOU PAY YOUR FEE IN CAKE TOO.
I'VE GOT A CONTRACT TO PROTECT YOU AFTER ALL, MIKUZU.
IT'S FINE.
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO MAKE ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

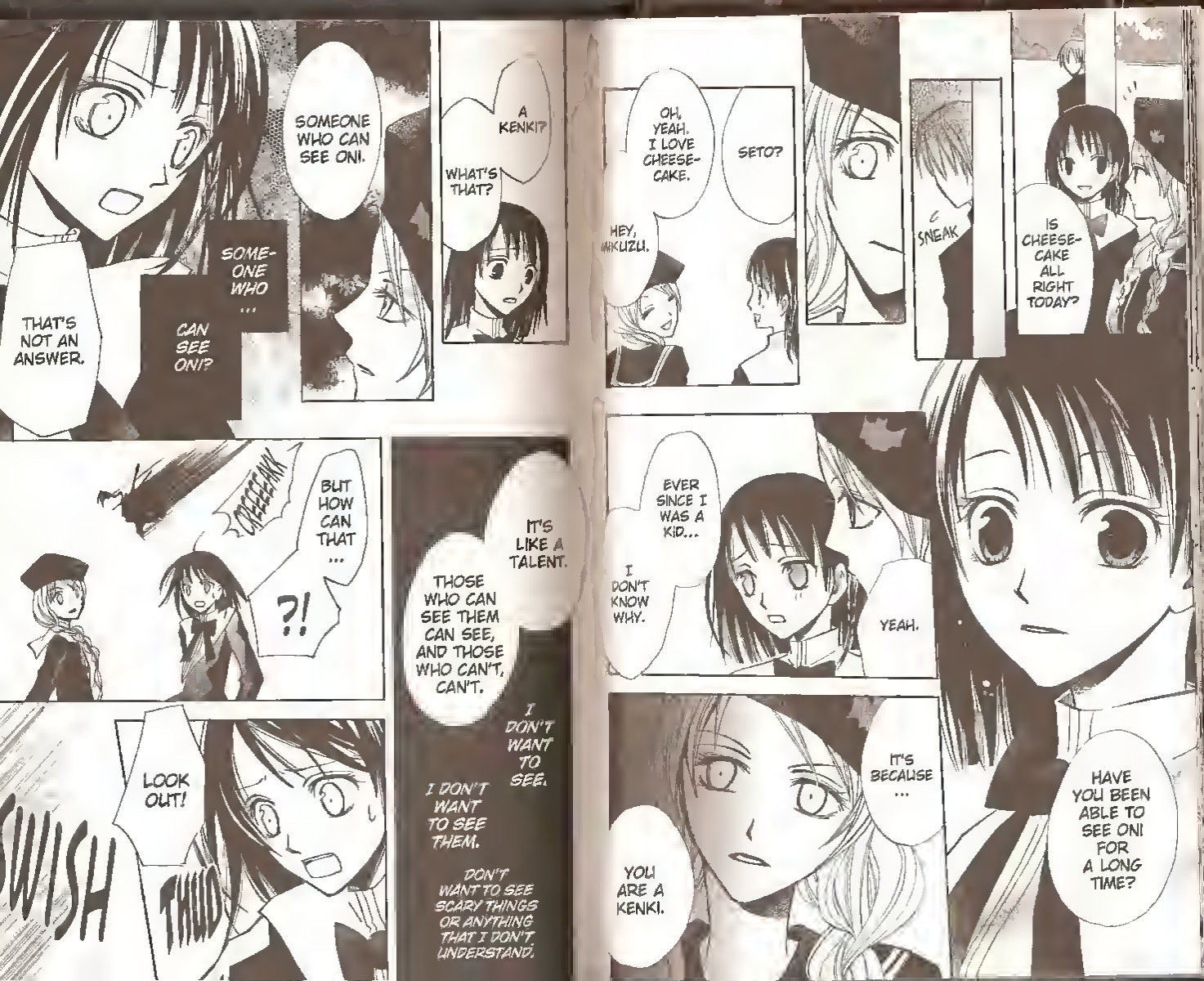

OKAY!
WELL THEN, DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE IT.
PROMISE!


THERE ISN'T!!
GRRR!
I FEEL LIKE THERE'S QUITE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 70 PERCENT OF MY YEARLY INCOME AND CAKE, THOUGH...

CAKE IS A HEAVEN YOU CAN EAT!
CAKE IS A SWEET CHUNK OF HAPPINESS... A LITTLE BIT OF PARADISE.

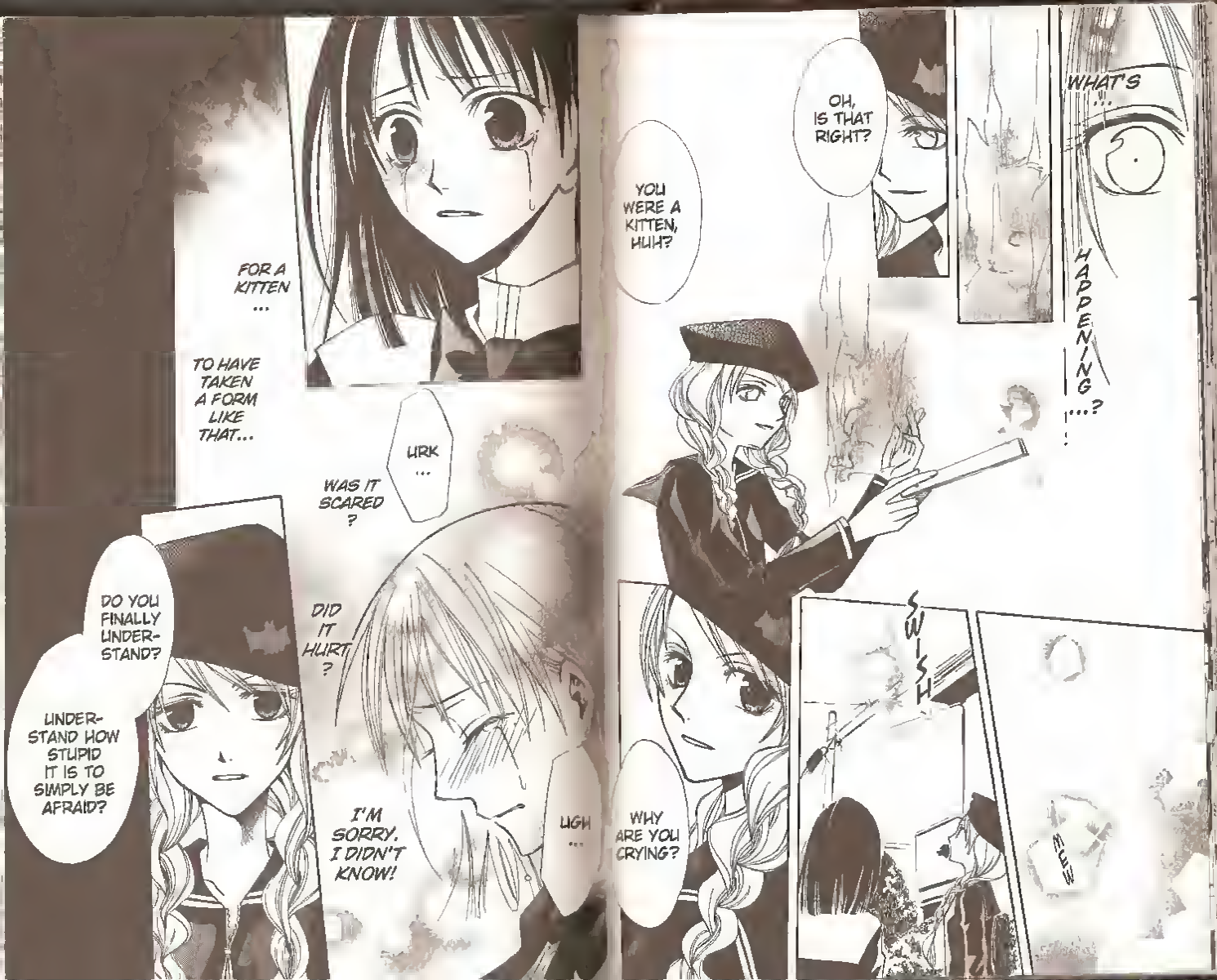

A cute stalker, isn't she?
IS SHE A STALKER TOO?
IS SHE WAITING FOR YOU, MIKUZU?
NO!
SETO ?!

SETO!
I DON'T DO WELL WITH BOYS, BUT...
IF THEY'RE CUTE LIKE THIS, I THINK I MIGHT BE ALL RIGHT.
OH, THANKS.
I...I WONDER IF HE REALLY IS A BOY.
BA-BUMP
SMILE
I'VE COME TO ACT AS YOUR BODY-GUARD.


HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO SEE ONI FOR A LONG TIME?
IS CHEESE-CAKE ALL RIGHT TODAY?
SNEAK
SETO?
OH, YEAH. I LOVE CHEESE-CAKE.
HEY, MIKUZU.
IT'S BECAUSE ...
YOU ARE A KENKI.
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
YEAH.
A KENKI?
WHAT'S THAT?
SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE ONI.
SOME-ONE WHO ... CAN SEE ONI?
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.
BUT HOW CAN THAT ...
?!
IT'S LIKE A TALENT.
THOSE WHO CAN SEE THEM CAN SEE, AND THOSE WHO CAN'T, CAN'T.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM.
DON'T WANT TO SEE SCARY THINGS OR ANYTHING THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
LOOK OUT!
SWISH
THUD

PUSH
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
I'M FINE.
...LIKE THIS.
PAT
IT'S MELTING?
NO, IT LOOKS LIKE CELLOPHANE BEING STRIPPED AWAY.
ZOOM
HUH?
PAT PAT

THUMP
ARE YOU OKAY, SETO?!
OH... YEAH.
WHAT ON EARTH JUST HAP-PENED?
You kinda surprised me
I CAN'T DO EXORCISMS OR ANY-THING LIKE THAT.
BUT I'VE LEARNED A FEW TRICKS ...
...TO ESCAPE FROM SMALL MONSTERS.
IS THAT RIGHT? YOU MUST HAVE WORKED HARD.
CREAK CREAK
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE TRYING THE BEST YOU CAN.
BUT NOTHING WILL BE SOLVED ...


WHAT'S ...
HAPPENING ...?!
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?
YOU WERE A KITTEN, HUH?
SWISH
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
FOR A KITTEN ...
TO HAVE TAKEN A FORM LIKE THAT...
URK ...
WAS IT SCARED ?
DID IT HURT ?
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW!
UGH ...
DO YOU FINALLY UNDER-STAND?
UNDER-STAND HOW STUPID IT IS TO SIMPLY BE AFRAID?

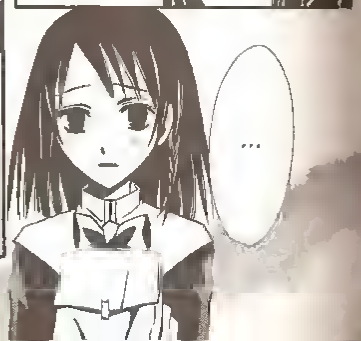
I...I MEAN ...
I DIDN'T KNOW!
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'LL BE FORGIVEN JUST BY SAYING "I DIDN'T KNOW"...
...ARE THOSE WHO DON'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
!!
STOP, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS.
I MEAN, SETO IS DIFFERENT, ISN'T HE?
DON'T RUN AWAY!
THUD
HE CAN CHANGE SCARY THINGS INTO THINGS THAT AREN'T SCARY, ALL BY HIMSELF.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
MIKUZU, LET'S GO HOME.
OKAY.
THIS MAN IS FRIGHTENING.
I'M NO GOOD WITH HIM!
And then...
SWISH
KAGARI!
OH...

THAT MUCH I UNDER-STAND.
SETO ISN'T WRONG.
CRICK

THE TRUTH.
SETO'S WORDS WERE ...
CRREAK
HELLO ...

GRIP
BUT ...

SETO'S WORDS HURT.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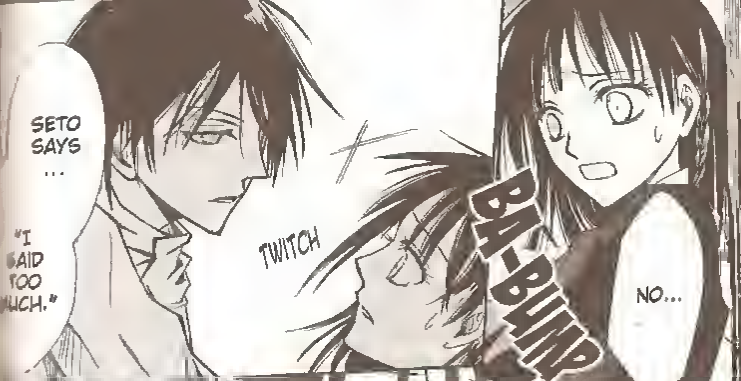
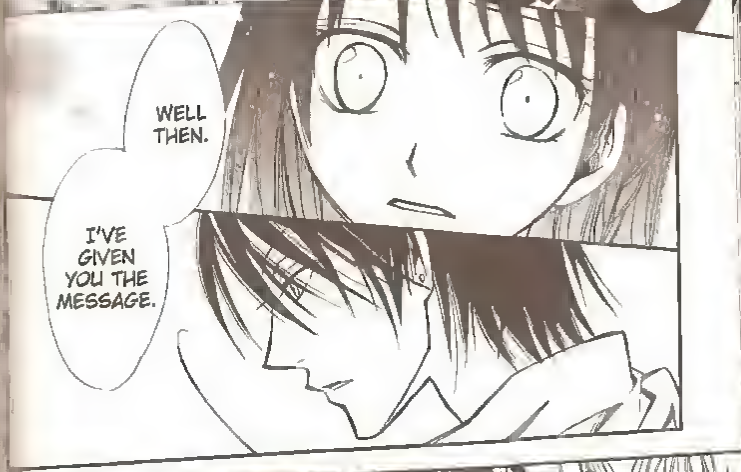
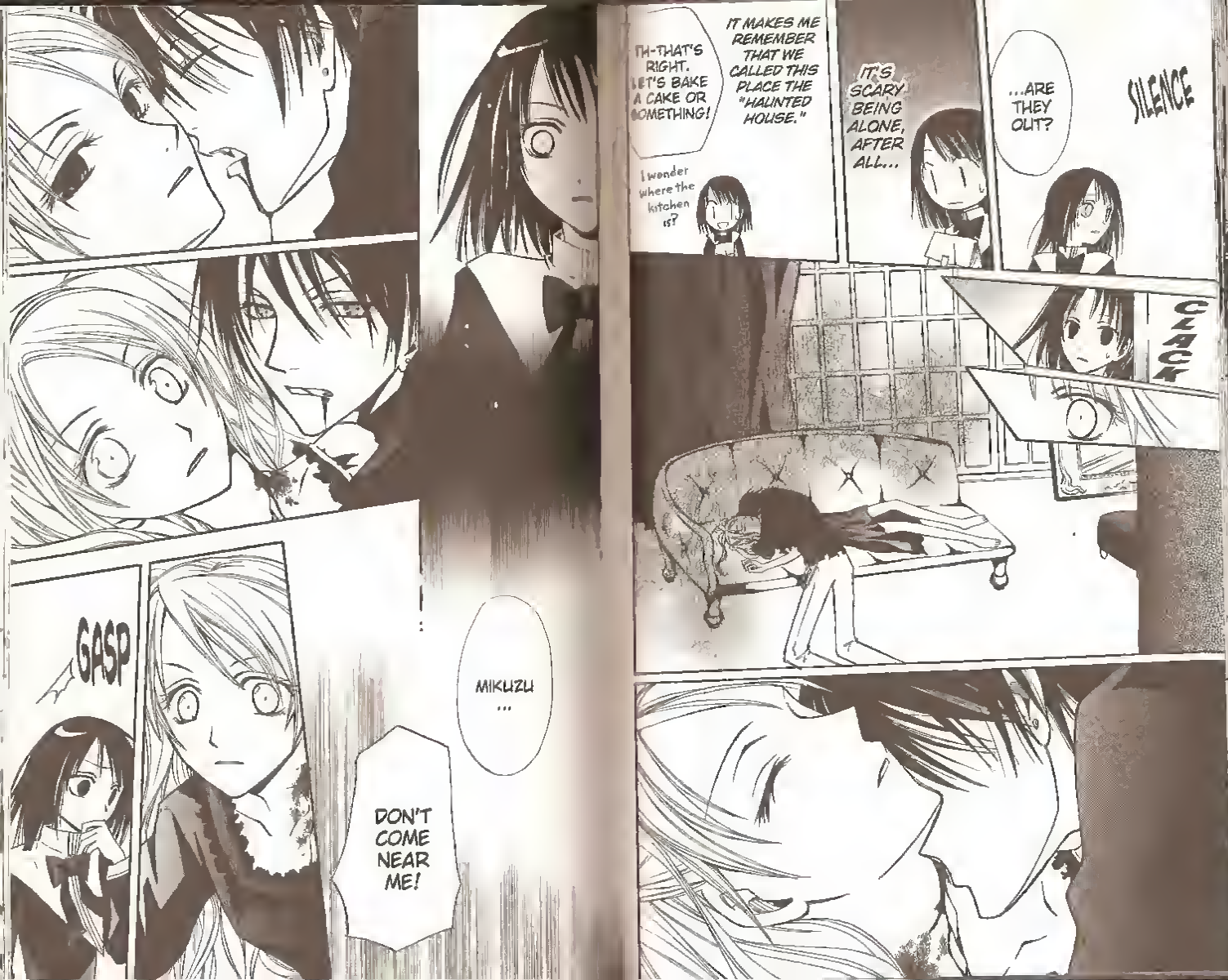

SETO SAYS ...
"I SAID TOO MUCH."
TWITCH
BA-BUMP
NO...


WELL THEN.
I'VE GIVEN YOU THE MESSAGE.

SETO ...
Isn't he?
TODAY'S STALKER IS PRETTY CUTE.
MIKUZU, WAS THAT PERSON JUST NOW A STALKER TOO?!


I wonder where the kitchen is?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT. LET'S BAKE A CAKE OR SOMETHING!
IT MAKES ME REMEMBER THAT WE CALLED THIS PLACE THE "HAUNTED HOUSE."
IT'S SCARY BEING ALONE, AFTER ALL...
...ARE THEY OUT?
SILENCE
CLACK
GASP
MIKUZU ...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!

HE HAD A LOOK ON HIS FACE LIKE HE WAS GOING TO CRY.
I MADE HIM LOOK LIKE THAT.
HUH?
HUH?
I RAN OFF AGAIN.
ONCE AGAIN...
I DIDN'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
WHAT AM I DOING?!
SAG

KAGARI.
THUMP THUMP
BANG
BA-BUMP
GO AFTER ...
... MIZUKU.

I'VE GOT TO GET BACK!
FOOM
IS THIS ...
...MY FAULT TOO, I WONDER?
IF SO...
THEN RIGHT HERE, LIKE THIS...
SWISH
THWACK
WH...
WHY DID YOU ...?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.
SETO TOLD ME TO COME HERE.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THINGS ...WITHOUT KNOWING THEM ANYMORE.
...
I DON'T WANT TO RUN ANYMORE!
BUT...
I'M NOT GONNA TAG ALONG WHILE YOU TRY TO MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER.

AND STRONG ...

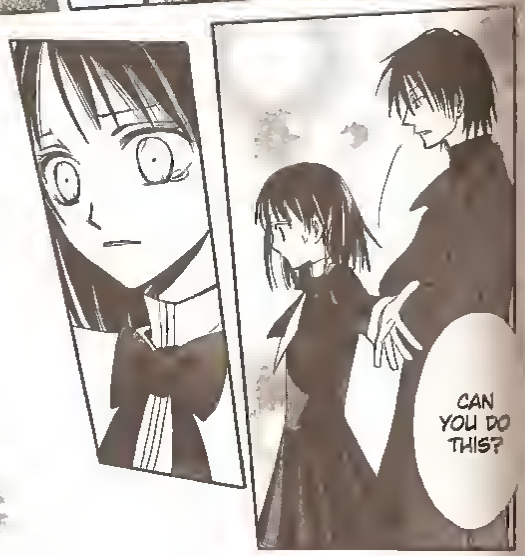
SETO IS...

BUT...

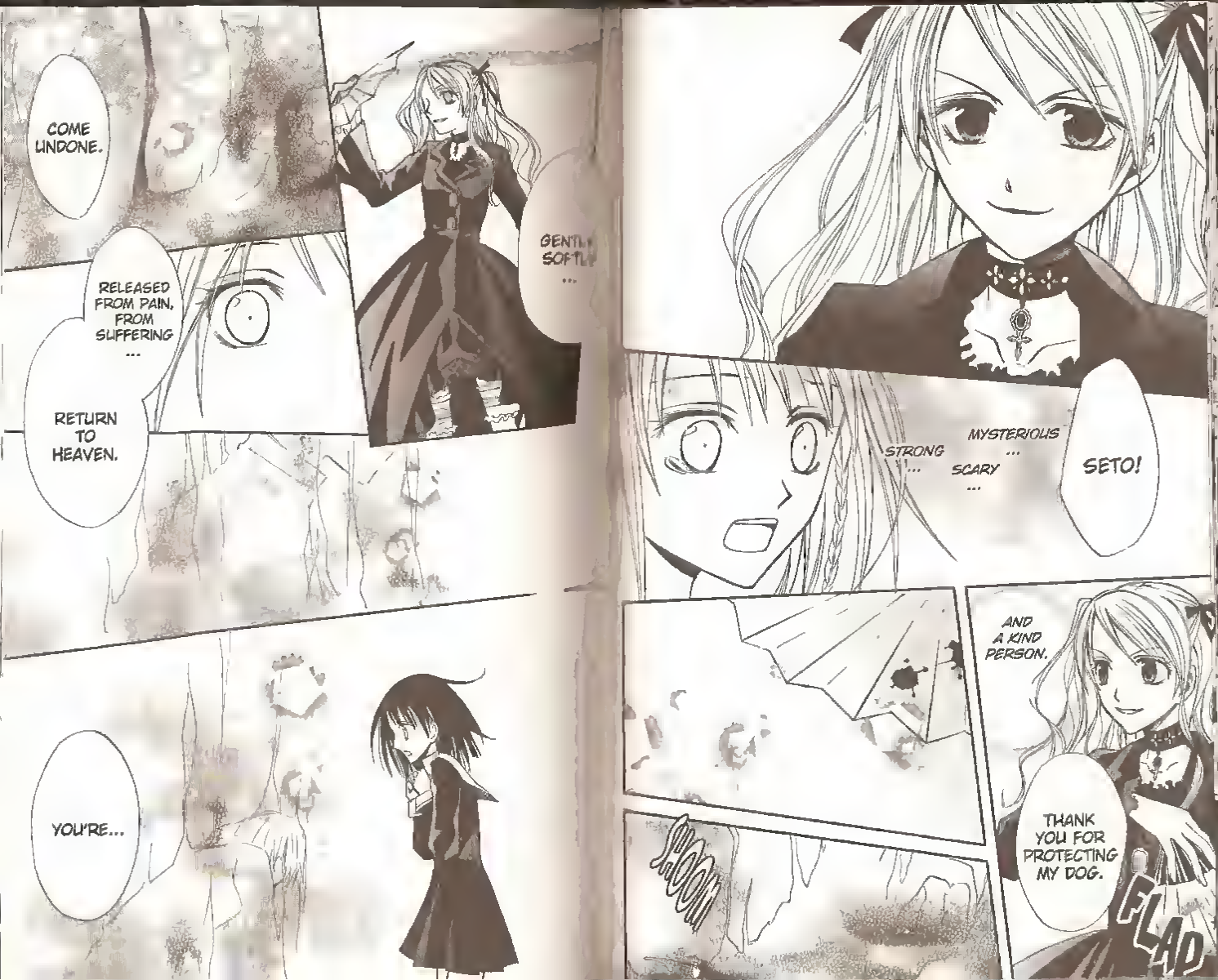
IT'S FRIGHTENING, BUT...

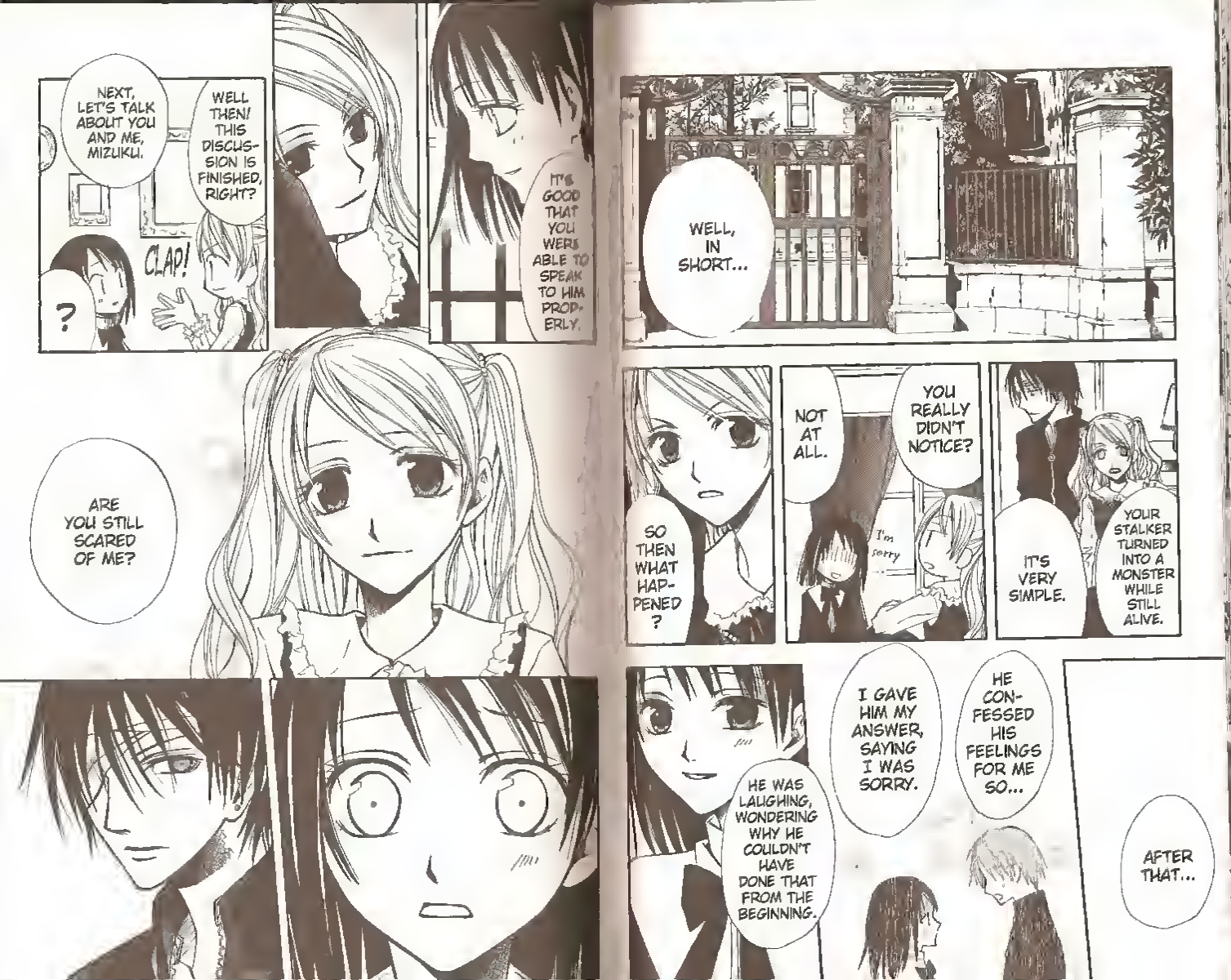
EVEN TRYING TO FIND OUT THE ANSWER ...

MYSTERIOUS AND SCARY...



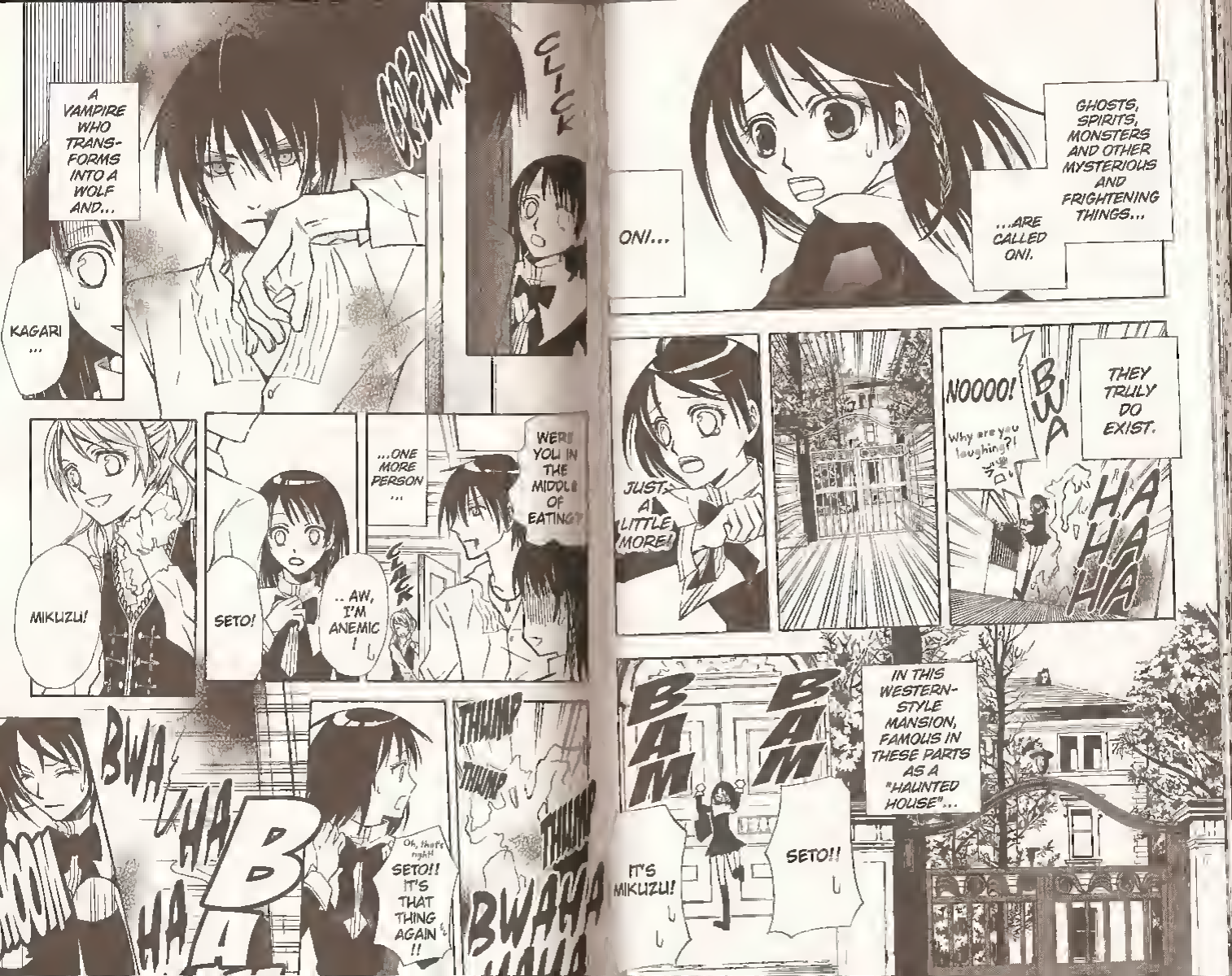
YOU'LL GET IN MY WAY IF YOU'RE HERE!
RUN AWAY QUICKLY WHILE I ACT AS A SHIELD!
GRRR
I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO EXORCIZE ONI LIKE SETO, YOU KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THWAP


COME UNDONE.
RELEASED FROM PAIN, FROM SUFFERING ...
RETURN TO HEAVEN.
GENTLY, SOFTLY ...
YOU'RE...
SETO!
STRONG !...
MYSTERIOUS ...
SCARY ...
AND A KIND PERSON.
THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING MY DOG.
GLAD


NEXT, LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU AND ME, MIZUKU.
WELL THEN! THIS DISCUSSION IS FINISHED, RIGHT?
CLAP!
?
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO SPEAK TO HIM PROPERLY.
ARE YOU STILL SCARED OF ME?
WELL, IN SHORT...
SO THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT AT ALL.
YOU REALLY DIDN'T NOTICE?
I'm sorry
IT'S VERY SIMPLE.
YOUR STALKER TURNED INTO A MONSTER WHILE STILL ALIVE.
HE WAS LAUGHING, WONDERING WHY HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT FROM THE BEGINNING.
I GAVE HIM MY ANSWER, SAYING I WAS SORRY.
HE CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS FOR ME SO...
AFTER THAT...

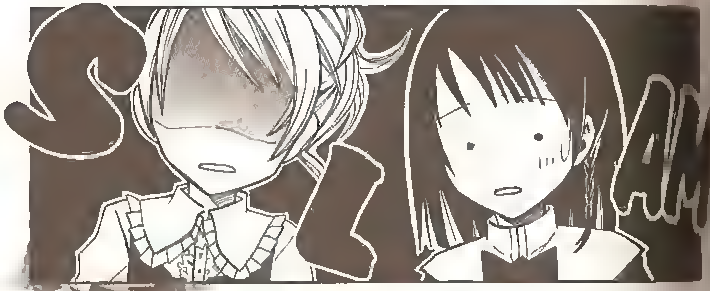
I have a bad feeling about this.
HOW-EVER!
SINCE YOU'RE A KENKI, WE CAN USE YOU AS BAIT FOR THE ONI.
THERE'S NOT MUCH WORK FOR ME.
MOST ONI RUN AWAY IF I GET CLOSE. SO...
COULD THIS BE BECAUSE OF YOUR SCAM TOO?
C'MON!
WORK ALONG WITH ME!
IT'S A GOOD DEAL, ISN'T IT?
I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN PROTECT YOU FROM ONI.
I'LL BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY.
YOU CAN BE THE DECOY, UNDER THE TITLE OF HEAD OF OPERATIONS!
Decoy?!
I'M SORRY I HURT YOU! WHAT CAN I DO?
WILL U STAY FRIEND FROM NOW ON?
I WILL!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M A LITTLE BIT SCARED.
BUT MORE THAN THAT, THE FACT THAT I LIKE YOU IS A GREATER...
WILL YOU ...
...DO ANYTHING FOR ME?
Aha!
I SEE...
GRIN
SHOCK
THOUGH I WANT TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY...
HUH?
WELL THEN ...
LET'S HAVE YOU PAY ME BACK WITH YOUR BODY.

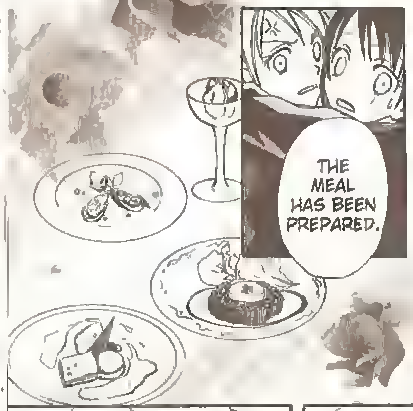
Heaven's Will
SHALL I SERVE CAKE WITH THAT, SIR?
I WONDER. A GOOD DEAL ?
MAYBE IT IS?
SERVE IT.
I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT SCARY AND STRANGE THINGS
IT GOES WITH THE PRESIDENT.
YOU'RE THE SECRE-TARY.
JUST FOR SHOW.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
THE HEAVEN TO WHICH YOU WILL SOMEDAY RETURN *THE END*


A VAMPIRE WHO TRANSFORMS INTO A WOLF AND...
GRRRR...
CLICK
KAGARI...
MIKUZU!
SETO!
..AW, I'M ANEMIC!
...ONE MORE PERSON...
WERE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF EATING?
CLICK
BWA HA HA HA
Oh, that's right!
SETO!! IT'S THAT THING AGAIN!!
THUMP THUMP THUMP
BWAHAHA
ONI...
...ARE CALLED ONI.
GHOSTS, SPIRITS, MONSTERS AND OTHER MYSTERIOUS AND FRIGHTENING THINGS...
JUST A LITTLE MORE!
NOOOO!
Why are you laughing?!
BWA HA HA HA
THEY TRULY DO EXIST.
BAM BAM
IT'S MIKUZU!
SETO!!
IN THIS WESTERN-STYLE MANSION, FAMOUS IN THESE PARTS AS A "HAUNTED HOUSE"...

A KENKI IS A PERSON WHO CAN SEE ONI.
YEAH ...
YOU SEE ONI ALMOST EVERY DAY, DON'T YOU?
ANYWAY, IT'S JUST AS IS TO BE EXPECTED FROM A KENKI.
IT SEEMS LIKE SETO CAN LIVE JUST ON CAKE.
OH, YES!
AS LONG AS I HAVE CAKE, I DON'T NEED ANY-THING ELSE.
IN RETURN FOR BEING PROTECTED FROM ONI, I BAKE SETO CAKE EVERY DAY.
MIKUZU, TAKE SOME ONI WITH YOU AND GO TO SOME RICH PERSON'S HOUSE.
UM... MY JOUR-NAL ...
MIKUZU, WHAT ARE YOU WRITING THERE?
SMILE
NO! I NEED MONEY! VERY MUCH SO!
HMMM.
SWOOSH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIKUZU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIKUZU?
YES.
THANKS.
THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL IS A BOY.
THE OWNER OF THE VAMPIRE, AN EXORCIST BOY, LIVES HERE.
YOUR CACKLING IS ANNOYING!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY JUST FOR ME, YOUNG LADIES.
I AM SOUICHIRO TAKAYAMA, THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF SEIOU HIGH AND THE TARGET OF ENVY FOR ALL THE STUDENTS
Their good mood is sinking.
What an odd bit...
YOU, SIR?
IT'S FRIGHTENING HOW PERFECTLY THIS FITS MY BEAUTIFUL SELF. I AM A PIANIST WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE.
PLEASE STOP SPEAKING IN HARMONY. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE THE PIANO.
YOU CAN'T SAY HE'S GROSS. HE IS SCARY THOUGH...
At least he's rich.
HEY HE'S SORTA GROSS
PLEASE STOP SHARING SECRETS.
SOMETHING IS STRANGE...
WELL THEN, AS FOR THE REASON I HAVE YOU TWO COME
EVEN WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM.
IT'S NOT BRILLIANT AT ALL. It's a scam.
ISN'T IT GOOD?
OH, ISN'T THIS A BRILLIANT PLAN? HUH, KAGARI?
I'LL APPEAR RIGHT ON TIME, AND SINCE I'LL BE THANKED...
NO, BUT...
MY FRIEND TOLD ME ABOUT HIM, AND ALSO TALKED TO HIM FOR ME...
ARE YOU CURED OF YOUR DIFFICULTIES AROUND BOYS? Your phobia.
A BOYS' SCHOOL?
YEAH...THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF A LOCAL BOYS' SCHOOL SEEMS TO BE IN TROUBLE.
REALLY?!
CLATTER
SO...
SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT SORT OF PERSON HE IS EITHER...

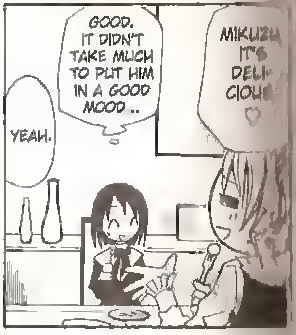

SCRAM


THE MEAL HAS BEEN PREPARED.

MISS SETO, MISS MIKUZU.
SETO!
SO ON TOP OF BEING GROSS, YOU'RE AN ARROGANT CHARACTER TOO?
I'VE DECIDED! I'M INCREASING THE COST 20 PERCENT!!
I'LL KILL YOU!

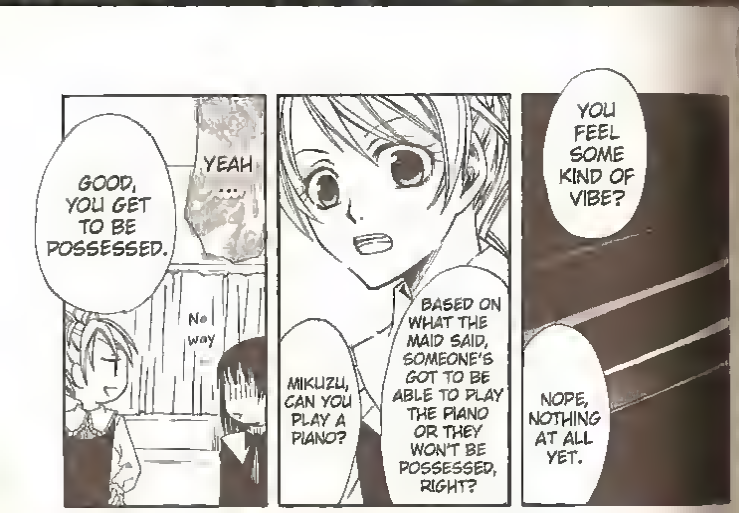
Giggle
YOU MAY TRY THEM ALL.
ALL OF THEM ?!
UMM... WHICH SHOULD I CHOOSE?

WHICH CAKE WILL YOU GO WITH FOR DESERT?


GOOD. IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO PUT HIM IN A GOOD MOOD..
MIKUZU, IT'S DELICIOUS ♡
YEAH.

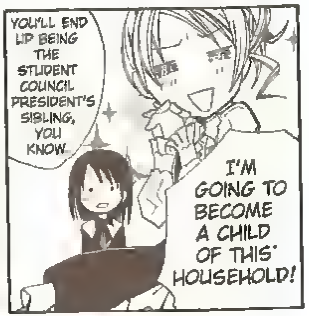
I RECENTLY GOT MY HANDS ON A HANDMADE PIANO FROM A CERTAIN ARTISAN THAT I HAVE COVETED FOR QUITE A WHILE.
I CAN'T PLAY IT.
RATHER, WHILE I AM PLAYING IT, I BECOME POSSESSED BY SOMETHING AND LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.
I CAN'T PRACTICE AT ALL LIKE THIS.
IT MIGHT BE A CURSED PIANO, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET RID OF IT.
AND THUS I'M ASKING FOR AN EXORCISM. I WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF SOMETHING FRIGHTFUL HAPPENED, SO...
I'M LEAVING FOR MY VACATION HOME.

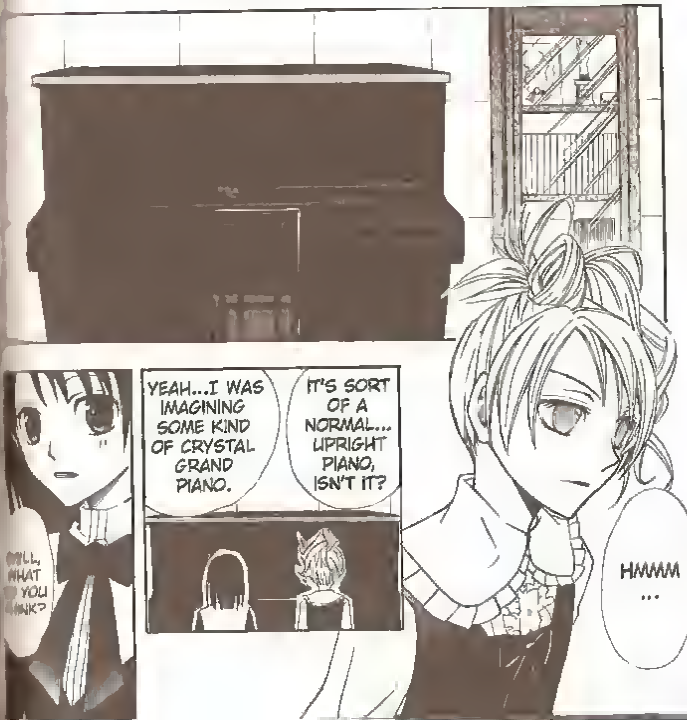
AS I HAVE A MAID, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL WANT FOR ANYTHING.
WELL THEN...
FLUTTER FLUTTER
I'D LIKE TO PLAY SOON, SO PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WITHIN THE WEEK.
I DON'T MIND IF YOU STAY HERE DURING THAT TIME.


GOOD, YOU GET TO BE POSSESSED.
YEAH ...
No way
MIKUZU, CAN YOU PLAY A PIANO?
BASED ON WHAT THE MAID SAID, SOMEONE'S GOT TO BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO OR THEY WON'T BE POSSESSED, RIGHT?
YOU FEEL SOME KIND OF VIBE?
NOPE, NOTHING AT ALL YET.

BA-BUMP
I'LL PROTECT YOU...
...FROM ANY KIND OF ONI.
I ABSOLUTELY DON'T WANT TO DO SOMETHING AS SCARY AS BEING POSSESSED BY SOME MONSTER!
I DON'T WANT TO!
YOU'LL BE FINE.
SMILE
I'M HERE AFTER ALL

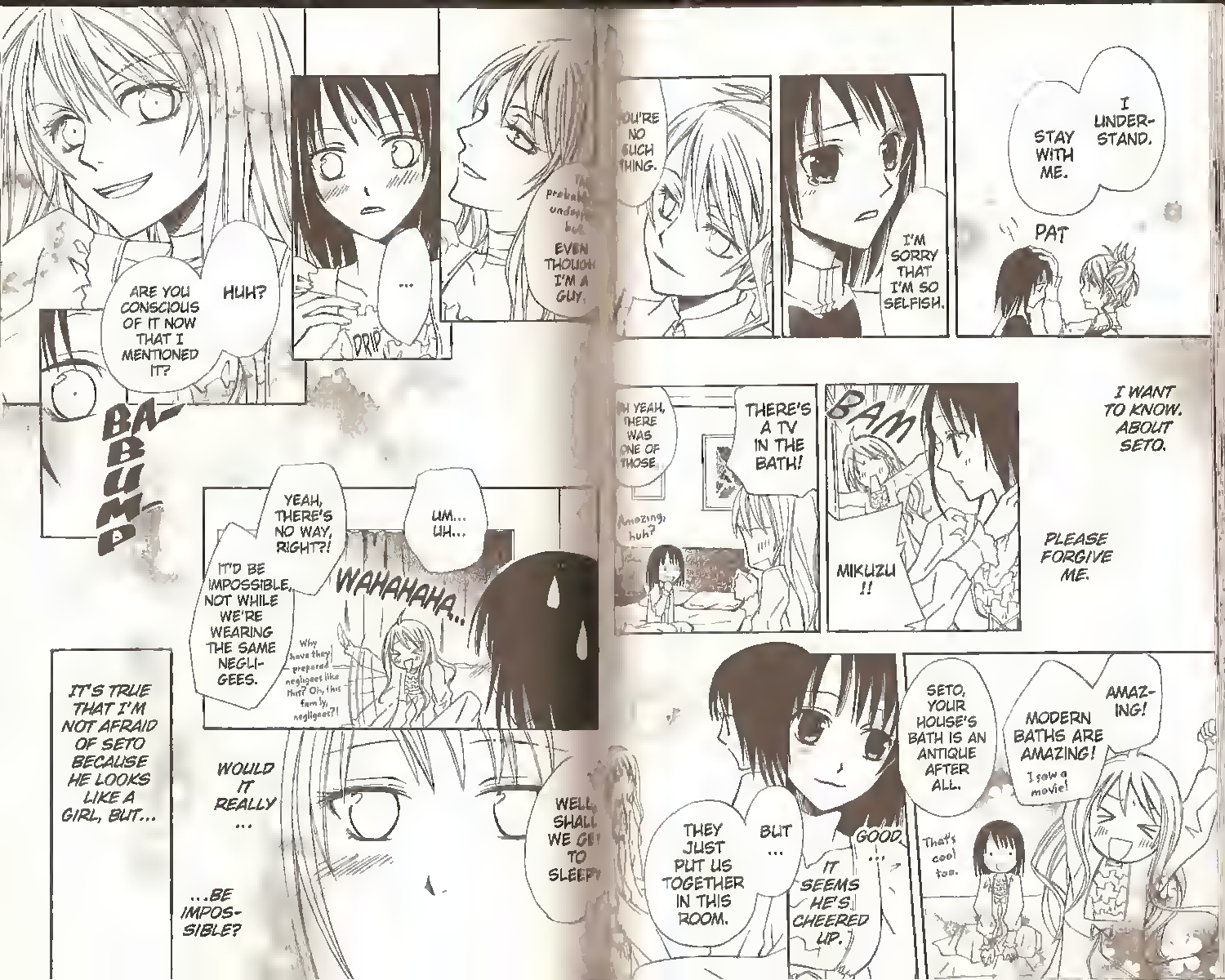
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE PIANO!
MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
DROP!


YOU'LL END UP BEING THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S SIBLING, YOU KNOW.
I'M GOING TO BECOME A CHILD OF THIS HOUSEHOLD!


YEAH...I WAS IMAGINING SOME KIND OF CRYSTAL GRAND PIANO.
IT'S SORT OF A NORMAL... UPRIGHT PIANO, ISN'T IT?
HMMM ...

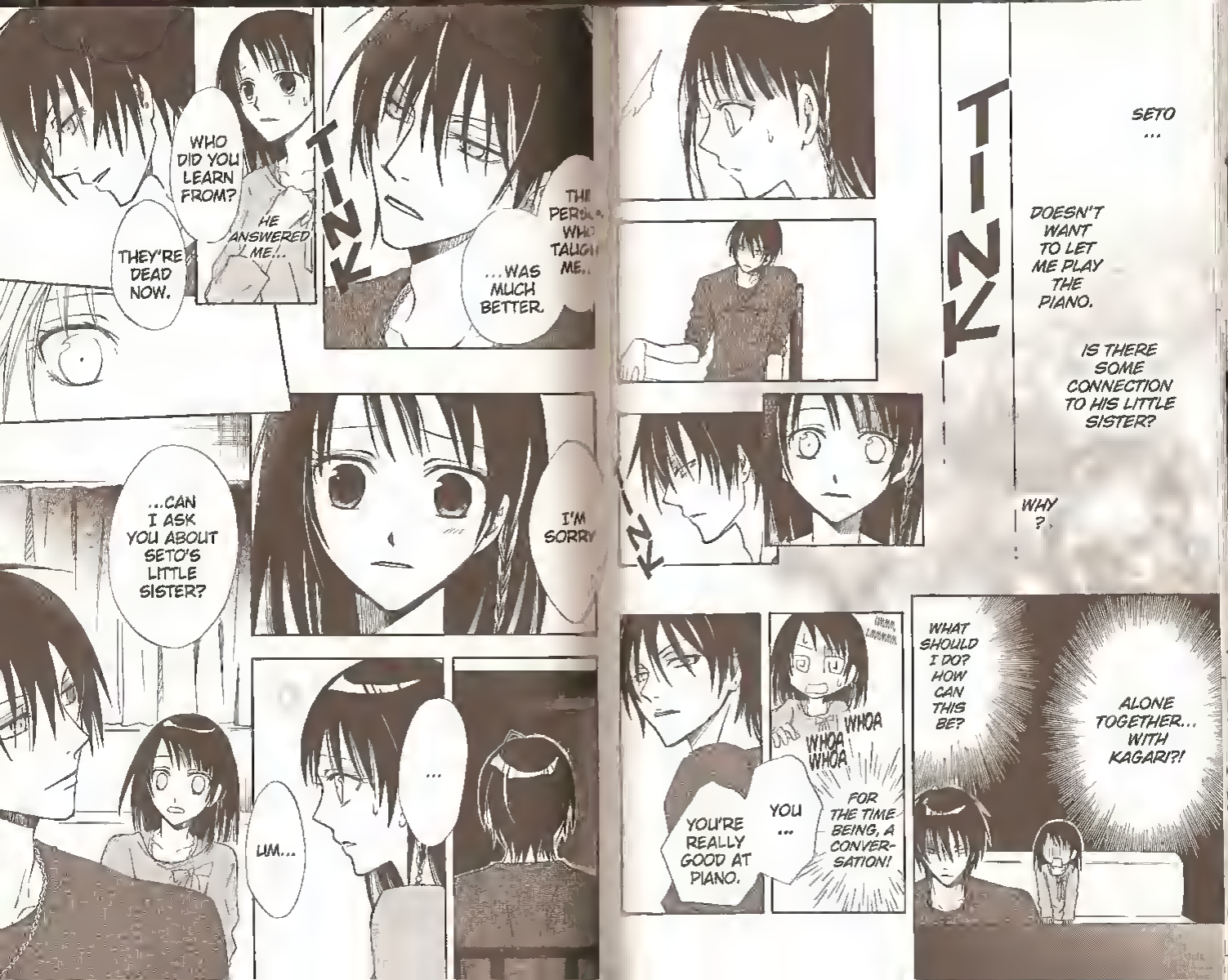
WELL THEN... PLAY THE PIANO.
Okay?
I've somehow been conned into this
I CAN'T PLAY ANYTHING BUT EASY SONGS, YOU KNOW?
ANY-THING'S FINE.
HMM...
THIS ...
SONG ...
HUH?
HUUHHH?
GASP
SETO ...
SE...
AAAH !!
WOOSH

"DON'T PRESS ANY FURTHER THAN THAT."
THAT'S WHAT SETO IS SAYING.
I'M NOT GOING HOME.
BA-BUMP
MIKUZU, YOU GO HOME.
I'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE, SO...
ANY-WAY, LET'S SPLIT UP FOR THE DAY.
I'M NOT GOING HOME!
WHAT ARE YOU
I'M STAYING WITH YOU, SETO!
DON'T KEEP ME AT A DISTANCE. LET ME GET CLOSE.
PLEASE.
SO I'LL HAVE THEM LET ME STAY HERE TOO.
WINTER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW
ETO, YOU VE A TTLE TER?
MY LITTLE SISTER USED TO PLAY THAT A LOT...
I'M SORRY!! MY FAULT!
YEAH ...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NO GOOD TODAY FOR SOME REASON.
I'M SORRY!
I DO...
SETO?!

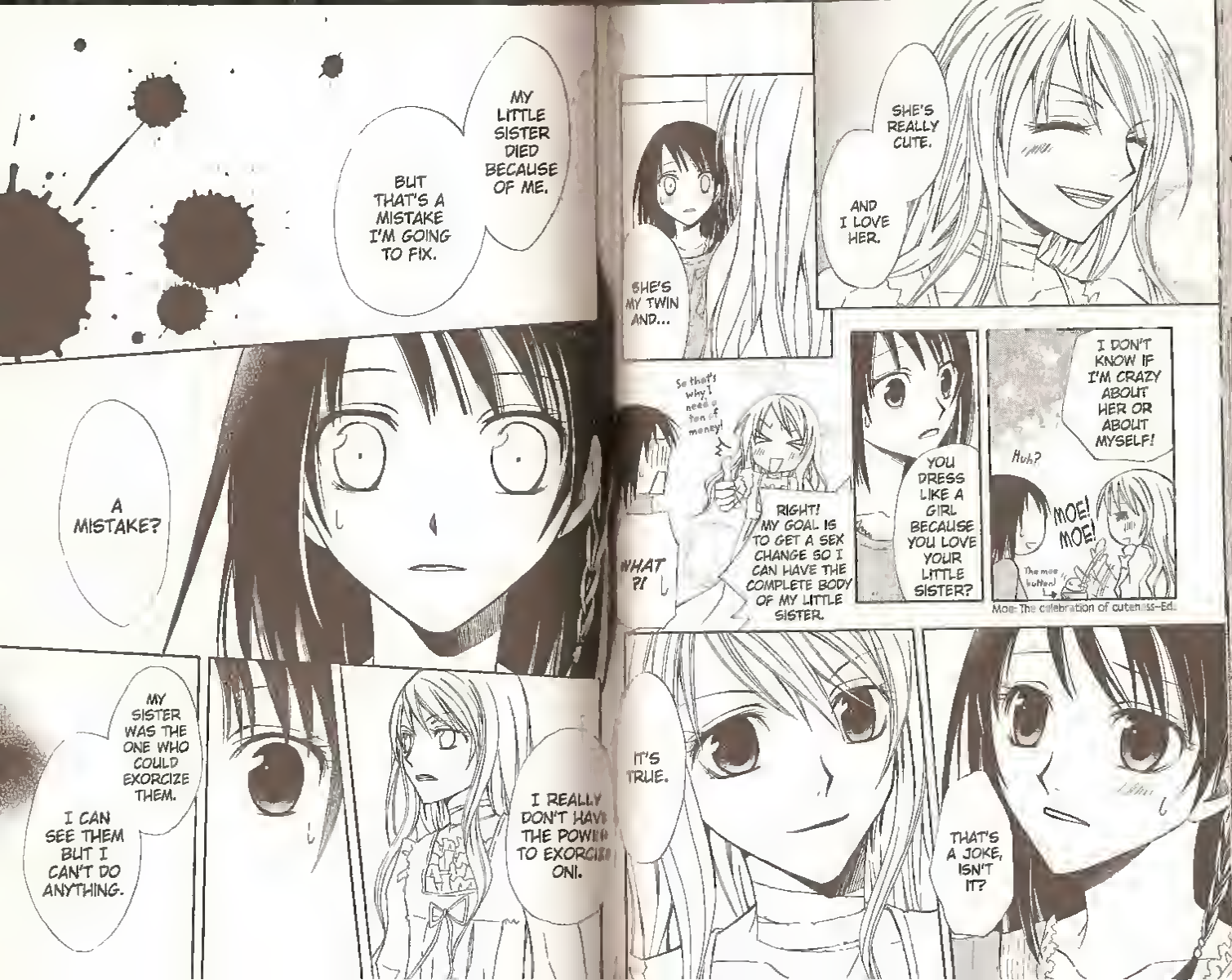

BA-BUM-P
ARE YOU CONSCIOUS OF IT NOW THAT I MENTIONED IT?
HUH?
...
DRIP
EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUY.
YOU'RE NO SUCH THING.
I'M SORRY THAT I'M SO SELFISH.
I UNDER-STAND.
STAY WITH ME.
PAT
I WANT TO KNOW. ABOUT SETO.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
OH YEAH, THERE WAS ONE OF THOSE.
THERE'S A TV IN THE BATH!
Amazing, huh?
BAM
MIKUZU !!
UM... UH...
YEAH, THERE'S NO WAY, RIGHT?!
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE, NOT WHILE WE'RE WEARING THE SAME NEGLI-GEES.
WAHAHAHA...
Why have they prepared negligees like this? Oh, this family, negligent?!
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M NOT AFRAID OF SETO BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE A GIRL, BUT...
WOULD IT REALLY ...
...BE IMPOS-SIBLE?
WELL, SHALL WE GET TO SLEEP?
THEY JUST PUT US TOGETHER IN THIS ROOM.
BUT ...
GOOD ...
IT SEEMS HE'S CHEERED UP.
SETO, YOUR HOUSE'S BATH IS AN ANTIQUE AFTER ALL.
MODERN BATHS ARE AMAZING!
I saw a movie!
AMAZ-ING!
That's cool too.

WHEN I'M WITH SETO ...
MY HEART BEATS FASTER.
CLICK
MIKUZU ...
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
KOON
BABUMB
GOOD MORNING.
KAGARI FRIGHTENS AND STARTLES ME!!
GOOD MORNING, SETO, KAGARI..
THERE'S THE FACT THAT MEN ARE FRIGHTENING, BUT HE ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE HE'S ANGRY TOO..
WE'LL HAVE KAGARI PLAY THE PIANO, SO...
Is that why I called you
HUM? A FIGHT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
NO
WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF YOU'RE IN A LITTLE BIT OF DANGER?
I'LL PROTECT YOU, DON'T WORRY!
WHAT A DESPOTIC MASTER.
WHAT COULD THIS BE? I FEEL HAZY.
YEAH
YOU REALLY ... ...USE ME FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, DON'T YOU?
YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT ?
THINKING ABOUT IT LATER, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS TO HAVE YOU POSSESSED AFTER ALL ..
HUM
BUT I ALSO ...
YES, I'LL HAVE YOU WITH US.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE EASIER TO HAVE THE POSSESSION OCCUR IF WE HAVE A KENKI WITH US.

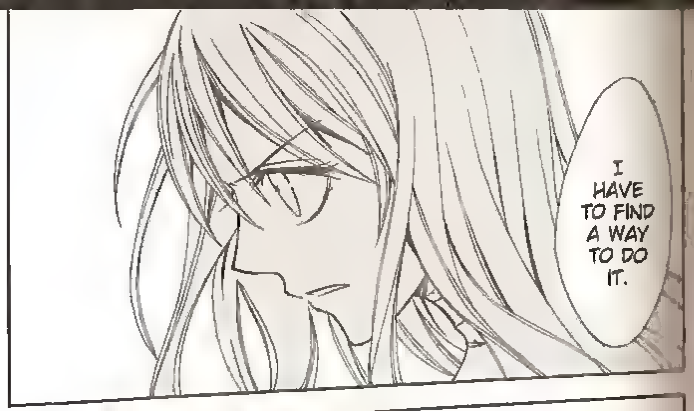
I AGREE.
IT'S BECAUSE KAGARI ISN'T A PERSON?
SHALL I PLAY, SETO?
ME!
I'LL TRY THINKING OF SOME OTHER PLANS TOO.
ANYWAY, LET'S TRY IT AGAIN TOMORROW!
HE DOES SMILE.
He smiled, didn't he?
ARE WE GONNA KEEP PLAYING?
I'M GONNA GO TAKE A BATH!
BUT...
YOU DON'T LIKE SCARY THINGS, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
MAYBE...
WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN POSSESSED?!
YEAH, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR SIX HOURS!
I'M GETTING KINDA TIRED.
A COLLECTION OF PIANO SONGS...
Same thing.
Went back to get a change of clothing.

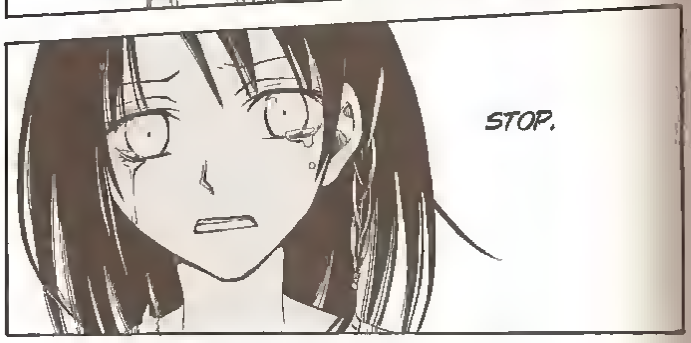

SETO ...
DOESN'T WANT TO LET ME PLAY THE PIANO.
IS THERE SOME CONNECTION TO HIS LITTLE SISTER?
WHY?
TINK
TINK
WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW CAN THIS BE?
ALONE TOGETHER... WITH KAGARI?!
WHOA WHOA WHOA
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT PIANO.
YOU ...
FOR THE TIME BEING, A CONVERSATION!
I'M SORRY
...CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT SETO'S LITTLE SISTER?
UM...
...
TINK
THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT ME..
...WAS MUCH BETTER.
WHO DID YOU LEARN FROM?
HE ANSWERED ME..
THEY'RE DEAD NOW.

STILL ...
TAP TAP
HE'S MEAN!
SMACK
OWWW!
BUT I ALSO THINK THAT WHAT HE WAS SAYING IS TRUE ...
MORE THAN JUST BEING A SCARY PERSON ...
HE'S MEAN!
TO BE HONEST, NO MATTER WHAT I TELL YOU...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ABOUT SETO.
BUT WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?
IT'S FINE IF I TELL YOU.
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THEN THE SMILE HE GAVE SETO!
I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT HIS LITTLE SISTER MYSELF!
THANK YOU!!
CLATTER
WHY DO YOU HATE ME, KAGARI?
I...
...DON'T HATE YOU.
SETO!
MIKUZU? YOU'RE OKAY?
OUCH ...
PLEASE TELL ME...
...A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SISTER?


MY LITTLE SISTER DIED BECAUSE OF ME.
BUT THAT'S A MISTAKE I'M GOING TO FIX.
A MISTAKE?
MY SISTER WAS THE ONE WHO COULD EXORCIZE THEM.
I CAN SEE THEM BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO EXORCIZE ONI.
IT'S TRUE.
THAT'S A JOKE, ISN'T IT?
SHE'S MY TWIN AND...
SHE'S REALLY CUTE.
AND I LOVE HER.
So that's why I need a ton of money!
WHAT?!
RIGHT! MY GOAL IS TO GET A SEX CHANGE SO I CAN HAVE THE COMPLETE BODY OF MY LITTLE SISTER.
YOU DRESS LIKE A GIRL BECAUSE YOU LOVE YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M CRAZY ABOUT HER OR ABOUT MYSELF!
Huh?
MOE! MOE!
The moe button!
Moe: The celebration of cuteness--Ed.

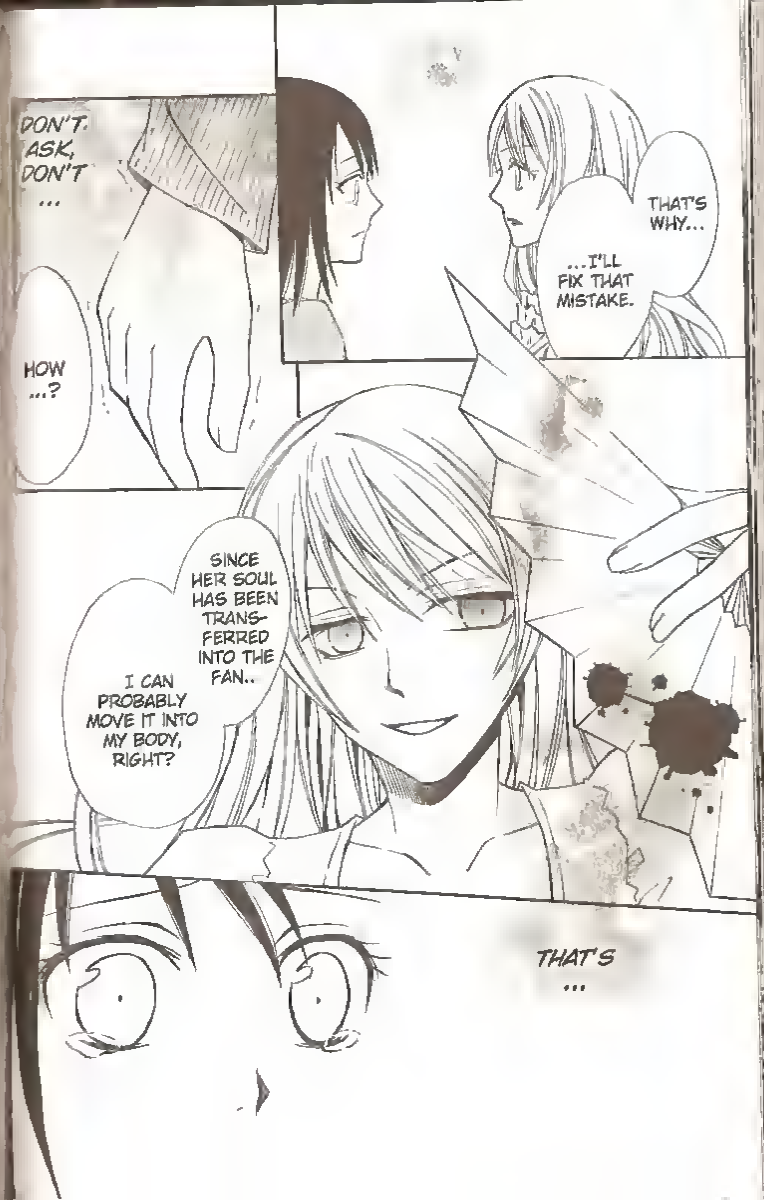
MY LITTLE SISTER DIED TRYING TO SAVE ME.
SWISH
HUH...
BUT YOU'RE PERFORMING EXORCISMS, SETO...
I WAS WEAK AND STUPID.
IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR HER TO DIE INSTEAD OF ME.
BA-BUMP
SHE'S PRO-TECTING ME EVEN NOW.
SHE HAS TO BE INSIDE IT.





PLEASE, SETO.

DON'T TRY TO DIE...

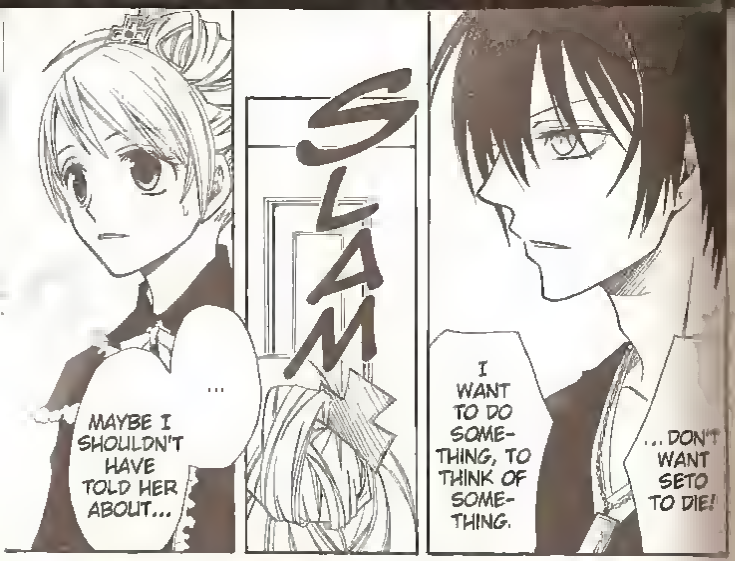

DON'T. ASK, DON'T ...
HOW ...?
THAT'S WHY...
...I'LL FIX THAT MISTAKE.
SINCE HER SOUL HAS BEEN TRANS-FERRED INTO THE FAN..
I CAN PROBABLY MOVE IT INTO MY BODY, RIGHT?
THAT'S ...

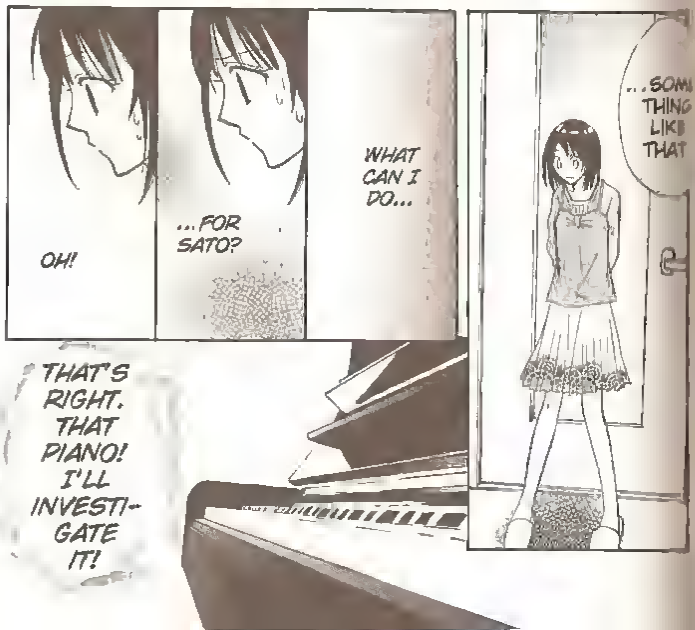
Heaven's Will

I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN!
HE'LL GIVE HIS BODY TO HIS DECEASED LITTLE SISTER.
DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'LL DISAPPEAR, SETO?
GROW HIS HAIR OUT.
WEAR DRESSES.
BECOME HIS LITTLE SISTER.
SETO'S WISH POINTED HIM TOWARD DEATH.

BA-BUMP
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, MIKUZU.
CLICK...
BLUSH...
IT'S GREAT, LIKE HAVING TREATS IN THE MORNING.
PANCAKES FOR BREAK-FAST.
I LOVE MAPLE SYRUP!
I REALLY LOVE BUTTER AND MAPLE SYRUP!
HUH?
GOOD MORNING.
WHAT WILL YOU HAVE FOR BREAK-FAST?
TWITCH
GOOD MORNING.
WAIT!!
SETO!
WAS YESTERDAY JUST AN ILLUSION?
WAIT A SECOND, WHAT'S WITH THIS MOOD?
SHALL I PUT HONEY IN YOUR MILK TEA?
YES, PLEASE! ♡
COFFEE, PLEASE.
KAGARI IS ABLE TO HAVE A NORMAL CONVER-SATION...
Or maybe he's just unpleasant toward me?
MIKUZU, YOU EAT TOO.
WAIT JUST A SECOND, YESTERDAY ...

MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH
DON'T EAT WHILE LISTENING TO ME!
It looks like you don't care one way or the other!
DOES THE MOOD SEEM AS THOUGH NOTHING HAPPENED AT ALL?!
I MEAN ...
IT'S A NORMAL THING.
DIDN'T I, SETO?
...I ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR SISTER.
...IS IT SO NORMAL?
WELL THEN, WHY...
I'll go pour your coffee.
YES.
YOU REALLY DID ASK.
THIS MOOD !!
IS WHAT NORMAL?
EVEN THOUGH YOU JUST HEARD ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME YESTERDAY...
IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS
IT'S A GIVEN.
I WAS REALLY SHOCKED ...
...AFTER HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SO WHY...

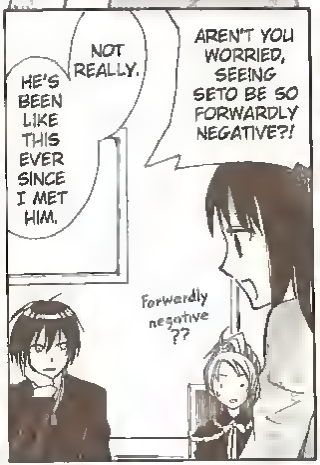

...
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HER ABOUT...
SLAM
I WANT TO DO SOME-THING, TO THINK OF SOME-THING.
...DON'T WANT SETO TO DIE!

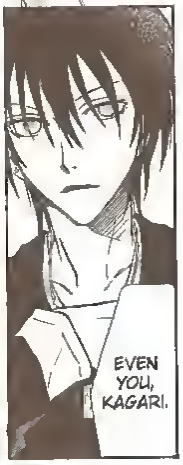

OH!
...FOR SATO?
WHAT CAN I DO...
...SOME-THING LIKE THAT
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT PIANO! I'LL INVESTI-GATE IT!

NORMALLY ...
...YOU WOULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY !!

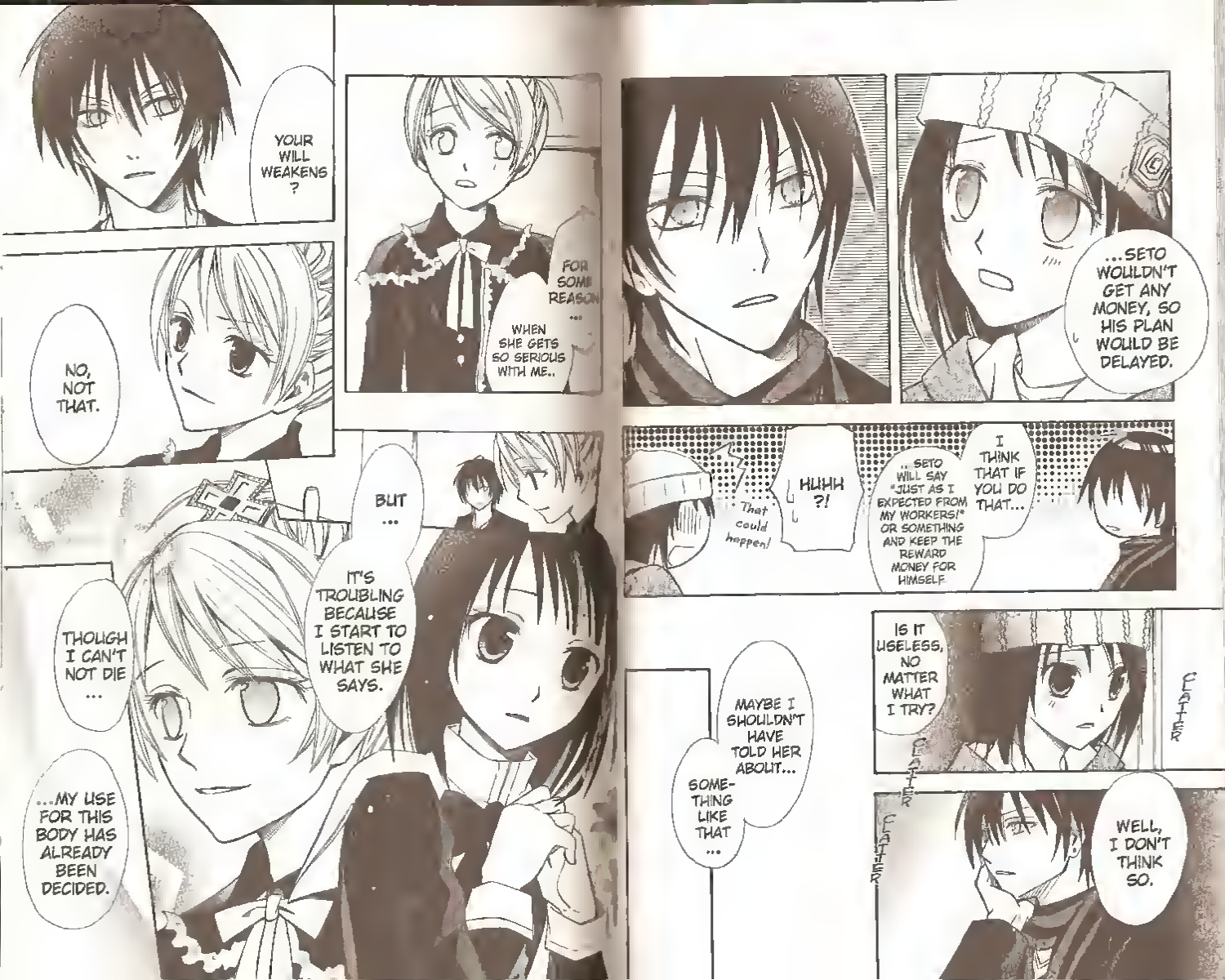
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO SERIOUS ABOUT ...
I DO!

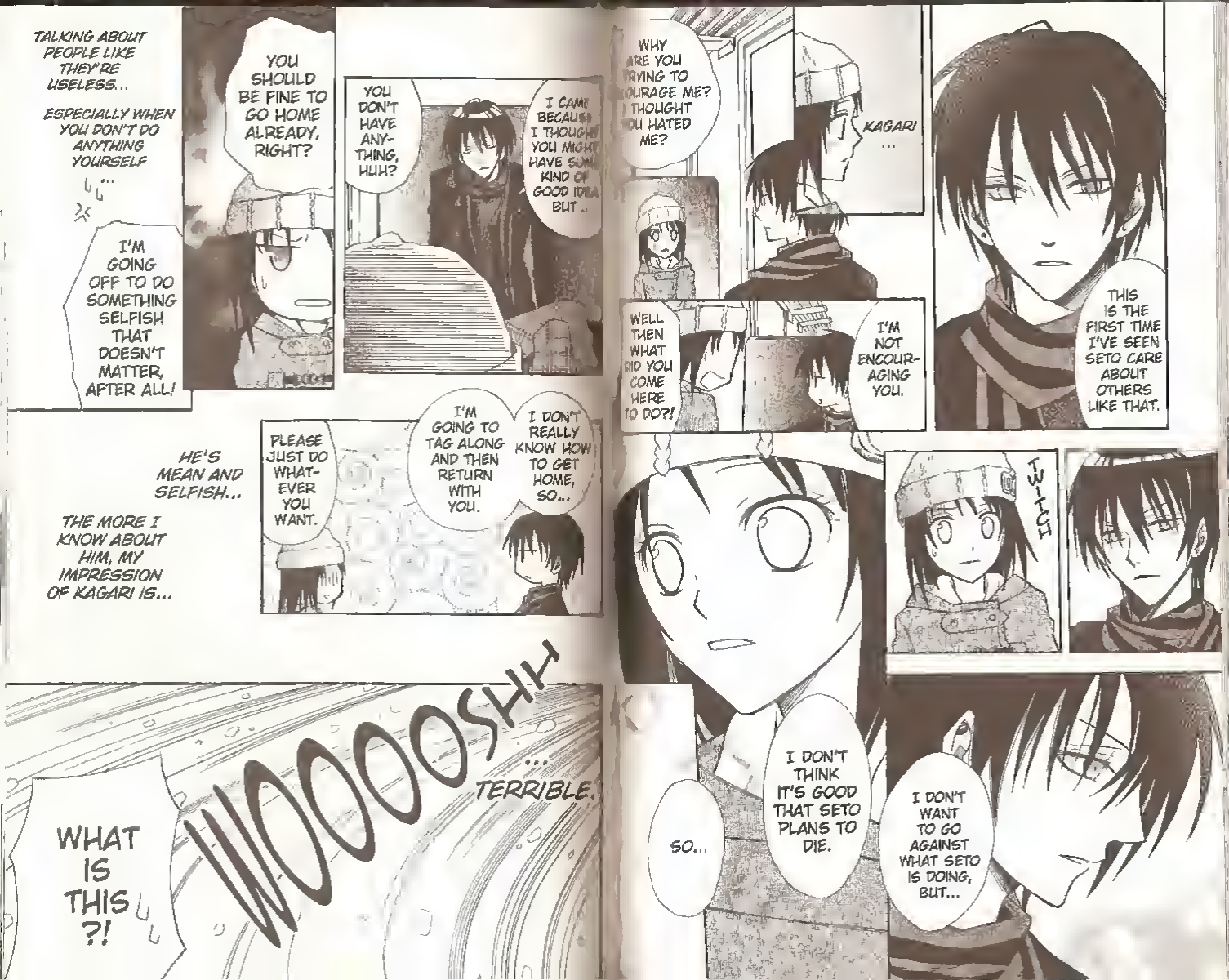
I...

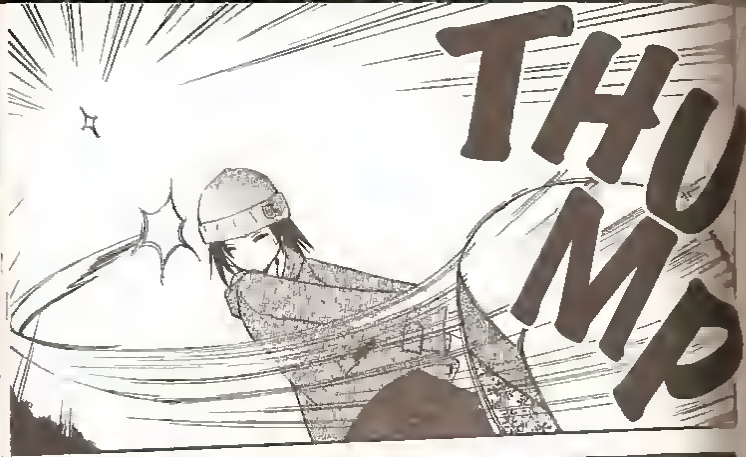

HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE I MET HIM.
NOT REALLY.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED, SEEING SETO BE SO FORWARDLY NEGATIVE?!
forwardly negative ??

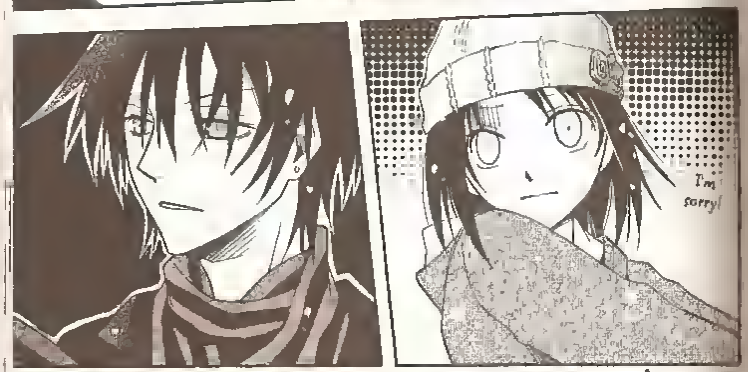

EVEN YOU, KAGARI.

WHY ARE YOU...
KAGARI ?!
STRONG
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IS THAT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR SETO?
MAYBE ...
...IF I CAN EXORCIZE THAT PIANO FIRST...
SPRING
I'M GOING TO UNCOVER ...
...THE MYSTERY OF THAT PIANO.
THUMP
THAT'S ...
THEN...
IF I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON HAPPENING TO THE PIANO...
MAYBE, FOR EXAMPLE ...
AND MAYBE...
I'LL INVESTIGATE THE PIANO...
THE XXX TRAIN ...
...IS DEPARTING AT 9.32.
THUD


YOUR WILL WEAKENS ?
NO, NOT THAT.
...MY USE FOR THIS BODY HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.
THOUGH I CAN'T NOT DIE ...
BUT ...
IT'S TROUBLING BECAUSE I START TO LISTEN TO WHAT SHE SAYS.
FOR SOME REASON ...
WHEN SHE GETS SO SERIOUS WITH ME..
...SETO WOULDN'T GET ANY MONEY, SO HIS PLAN WOULD BE DELAYED.
I THINK THAT IF YOU DO THAT...
.. SETO WILL SAY "JUST AS I EXPECTED FROM MY WORKERS!" OR SOMETHING AND KEEP THE REWARD MONEY FOR HIMSELF
HUHH ?!
That could happen!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HER ABOUT... SOME-THING LIKE THAT ...
IS IT USELESS, NO MATTER WHAT I TRY?
LATER
LATER
LATER
WELL, I DON'T THINK SO.


TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE THEY'RE USELESS...
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING YOURSELF
...
I'M GOING OFF TO DO SOMETHING SELFISH THAT DOESN'T MATTER, AFTER ALL!
YOU SHOULD BE FINE TO GO HOME ALREADY, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY-THING, HUH?
I CAME BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME KIND OF GOOD IDEA, BUT ..
HE'S MEAN AND SELFISH...
THE MORE I KNOW ABOUT HIM, MY IMPRESSION OF KAGARI IS...
PLEASE JUST DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
I'M GOING TO TAG ALONG AND THEN RETURN WITH YOU.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO GET HOME, SO...
WHAT IS THIS ?!
WOOOSHH
...
TERRIBLE.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO ENCOURAGE ME? I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME?
KAGARI ...
WELL THEN WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO DO?!
I'M NOT ENCOUR-AGING YOU.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SETO CARE ABOUT OTHERS LIKE THAT.
TWITCH
SO...
I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD THAT SETO PLANS TO DIE.
I DON'T WANT TO GO AGAINST WHAT SETO IS DOING, BUT...

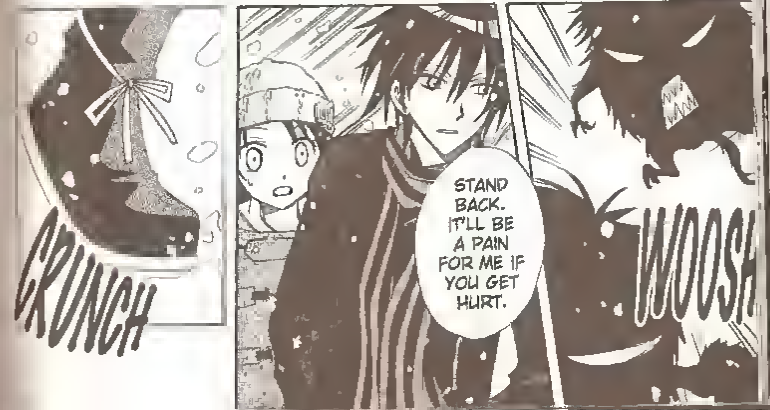

THUMP


I'm sorry!

I SEE.
SO IT'S OKAY!
I'M ABLE TO PROTECT MYSELF A LITTLE BIT FROM GHOSTS I CAN TOUCH.
OH, I...
WHOOSH
CRACK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I THOUGHT I'D GO TO THE HOME OF THE GRANDSON OF THE CRAFTSMAN WHO MADE THE PIANO AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS.
BUT I DON'T THINK IT COULD BE IN SUCH A REMOTE PLACE ...
WHOOOSSHH
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY.
WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO GO?
Or rather, where are we now?

HUH?
SCARIER THINGS THAN A SIGNPOST ARE GATHERING AROUND US...
IT SEEMS THAT ...
What should we do?
HMMM
THERE'S SOME KIND OF CREEPY SIGNPOST HERE...
Is this a prank?!
It's just a bit old


CRUNCH
STAND BACK. IT'LL BE A PAIN FOR ME IF YOU GET HURT.
WOOSH

GRIP
THIS IS ANNOYING ME, SO GRAB ON TO MY BACK.
BA-BUMP
HUH?
WHAT?
HUH?
WAHHH !!
SHUP
YES! THE SUN IS GOING DOWN, SO LET'S HURRY!
...A MOUNTAIN?
WE'RE GOING OVER ...
WELL THEN, LET'S HEAD FOR THE GRANDSON'S HOUSE! IT SEEMS IT'S JUST OVER ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE IF WE GOT STRANDED OR SOMETHING...
WHOO
SH
GRR
?!
There's lots of them?!
GAHH
!!
HUH?
WHERE'D YOU GO?

BUT SETO IS SPECIAL.
I CAN TELL AT A GLANCE THAT YOU SEEM PROUD, AFTER ALL...
I GET ENOUGH OF THAT FROM SETO.
I'M SORRY...
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.
TH...
CRUNCH
I'm also thankful you told me the flavor of the dog over there's mountain
GAHHH
IF NOT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH A DIGNIFIED PERSON COULD SIMPLY BE A "PET DOG"...
STARE
I WONDER IF HE HOLDS ONE OF YOUR WEAKNESSES OR SOMETHING...
POP!
HUH ...
HEH HEH...
PAT PAT PAT
SHE LOVES DOGS.
I WILL.
LIKE I SAID, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM DIRECTLY?
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY YOU AND SETO ARE TOGETHER.
NO...
WHAT? YOU CAN'T STAND UP?
COULD YOU PLEASE T TREAT ME LIKE A DOG?

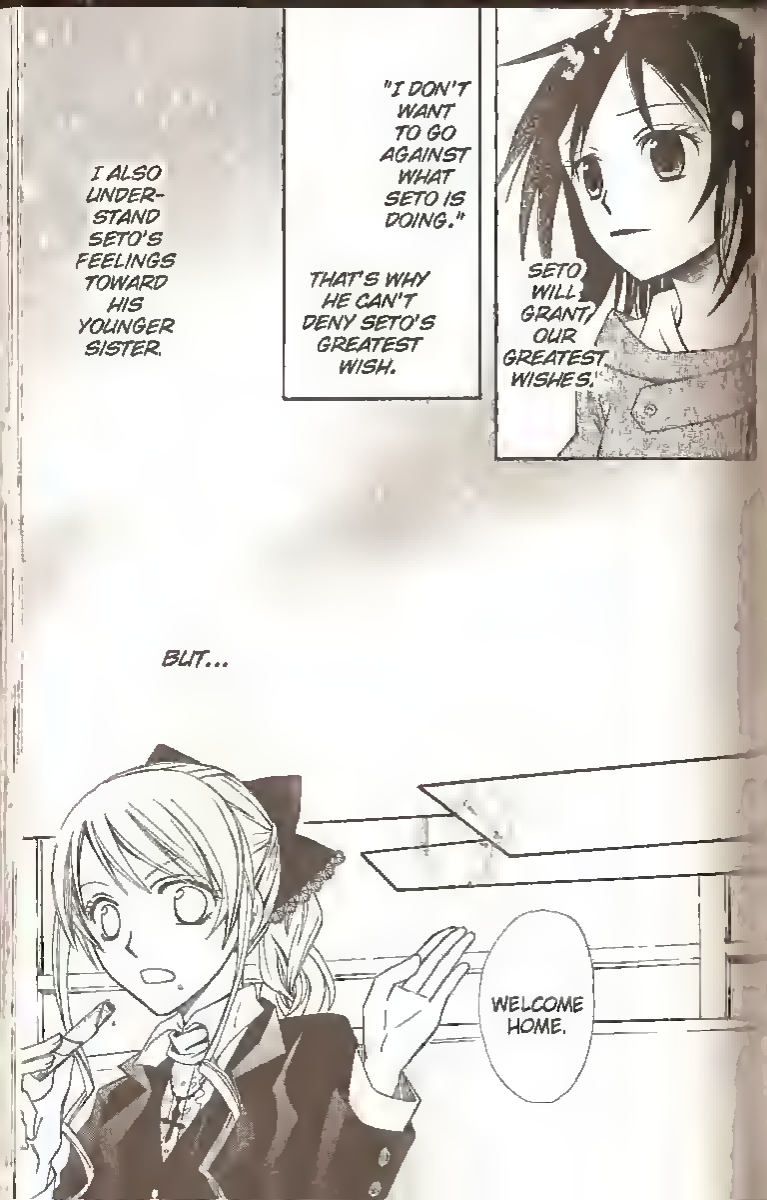
CARE-LESS?
IN THE BEGIN-NING ...
I WAS CARE-LESS.
YES, PLEASE TELL ME.
I'M WONDERING WHY YOU ARE WITH SETO, KAGARI.
BE-CAUSE SETO...
I ACCIDEN-TALLY ANSWERED HIM.
A DOG?
CRINKL
DO YOU WANT TO HEAR IT?
YOU SEE, IT'S THAT KIND OF STORY AGAIN.
WILL DO ME THE FAVOR OF KILLING ME.

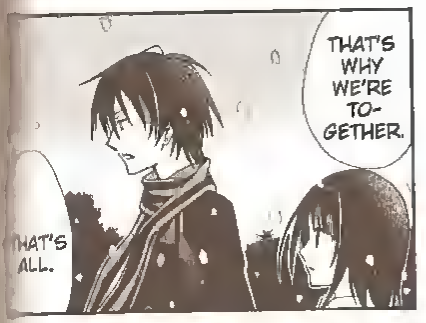
DO YOU PLAN TO EAT ME OR SOMETHING?!
IF THAT WAS MY INTENTION I WOULD HAVE ALREADY ATTACKED YOU.
YOU'RE AN ONI?!
I'LL BE LIVING HERE STARTING TODAY, SO... YOU CAN BE MY GUARD DOG! I'LL CALL YOU KURO BECAUSE YOU'RE BLACK.
WHAT A BIG DOG...
WELL THEN, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, AS I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED.
NO THANKS
Yep.
...
I SEE.
COME ON! AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT A KID LIVING HERE BY HIMSELF?!
THUMP
WE'RE GOING, KURO!
I'M NOT A DOG, AND MY NAME ISN'T KURO.

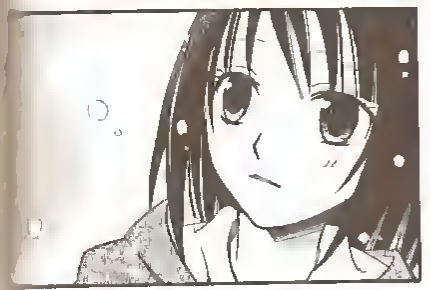
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO.
WELL THEN!
WHY?
BE-CAUSE HUMANS DIE FIRST.
WELL THEN, I'LL LEAVE.
ON TOP OF THAT, THIS WAS ORIGINALLY MY HOUSE!
I LEFT HOME BECAUSE IT WAS NO GOOD, DIDN'T I?
IF YOU'RE LONELY, GO HOME.
WHOOSH
BEFORE I DIE, I'LL KILL YOU!
MY PARENTS CALLED ME A MONSTER.
THEN LIVE WITH ME!
I CAN'T LIVE WITH HUMANS.
Let go.
DON'T LEAVE, YOU IDIOT!
SCRAPE SCRAPE
I TRIED ALL SORTS O' THINGS, BUT I CAN'T DIE.
DON'T MAKE PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP.
EVEN SO, I DON'T WANT TO.

WAVER
TUG
!!
I WILL EXORCIZE YOU BEFORE I DIE...
SO UNTIL THEN, STAY BY MY SIDE.

EH
WHAT DID... YOU DO?


I ALSO UNDERSTAND SETO'S FEELINGS TOWARD HIS YOUNGER SISTER.
"I DON'T WANT TO GO AGAINST WHAT SETO IS DOING."
THAT'S WHY HE CAN'T DENY SETO'S GREATEST WISH.
SETO WILL GRANT OUR GREATEST WISHES."
BUT...
WELCOME HOME.





HE SAVED ME FROM THE ONI WHEN I ASKED HIM FOR HELP.
I WON'T ABANDON KAGARI.
BUT THE ONE THING I UNDERSTOOD WAS THE WAY KAGARI FELT.
IT'S ALL SO COMPLICATED...

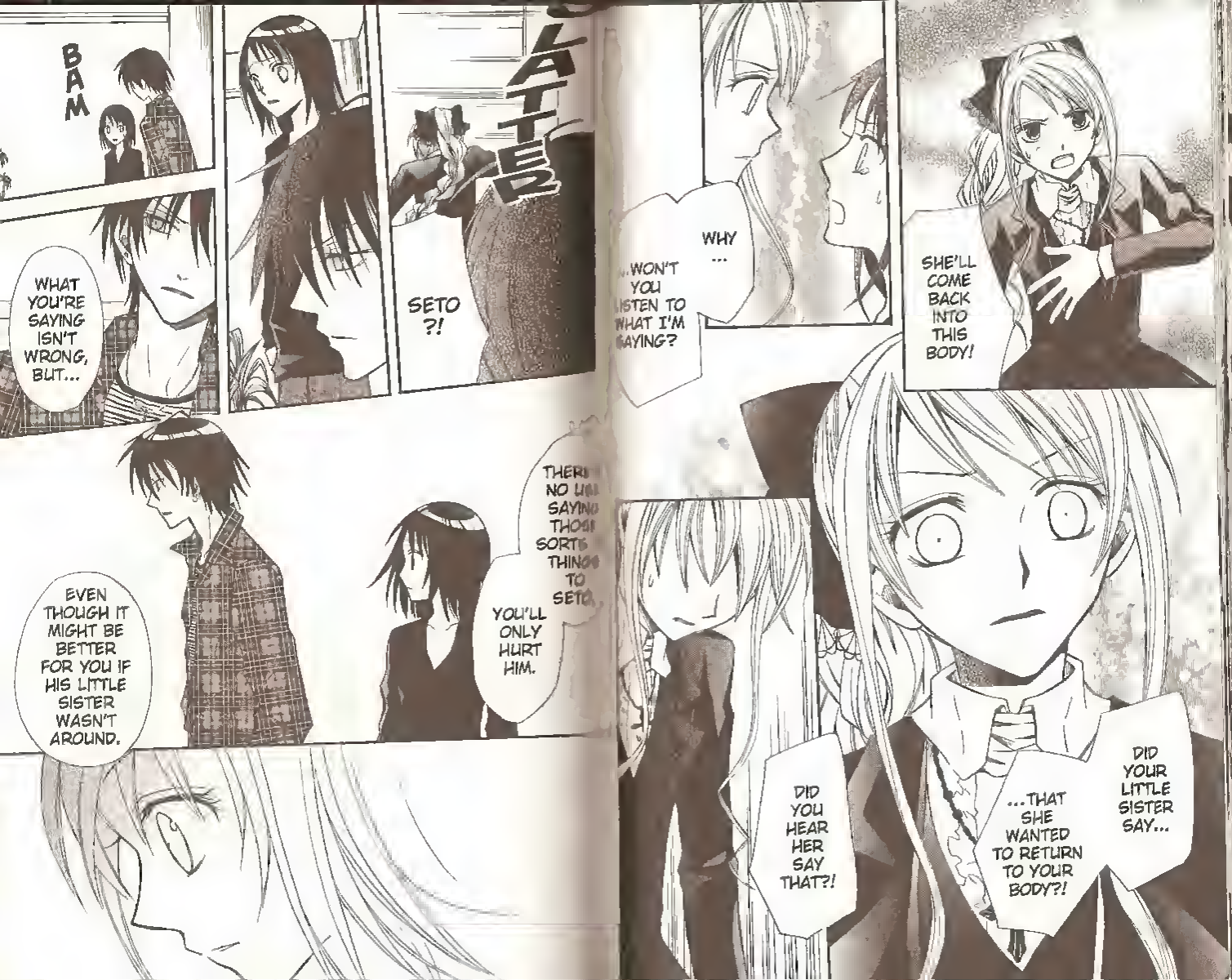
A GENTLE THREAT ...

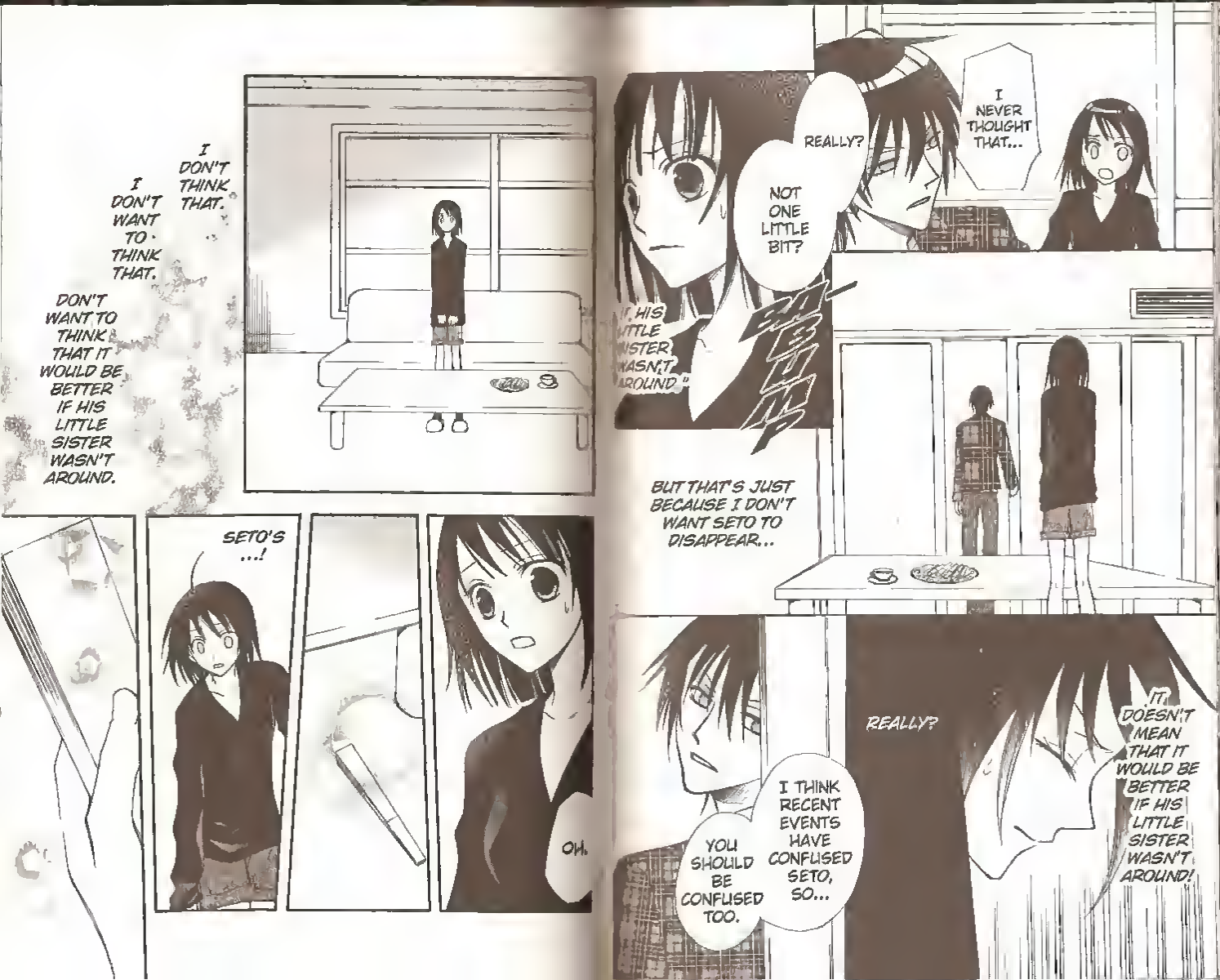
THE FIRST PERSON I MET...

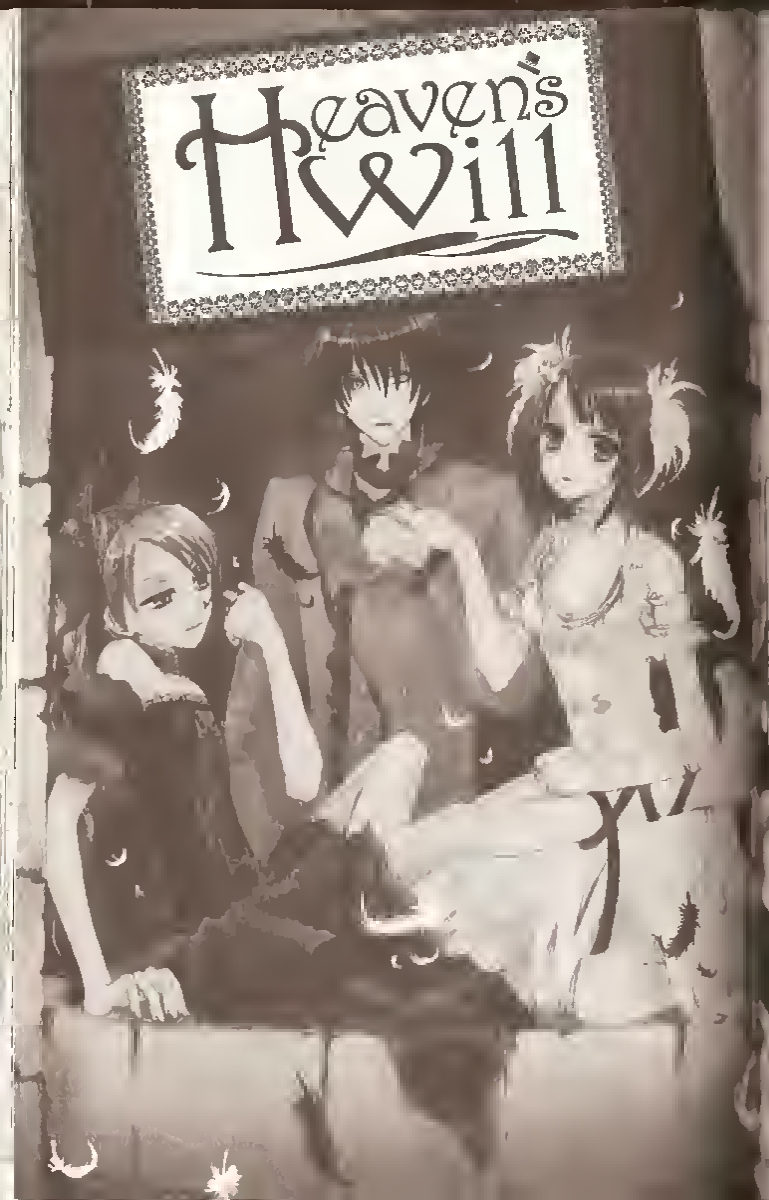
...WHO WOULD NOT ABANDON ME.

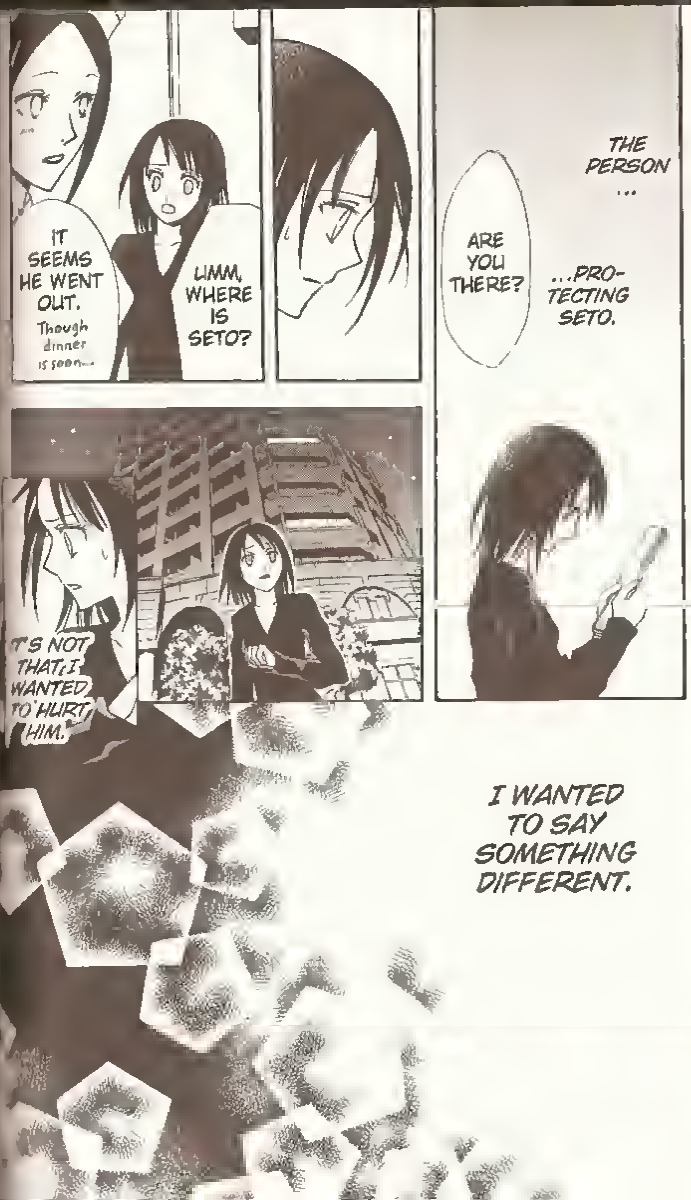
I WONDER IF THE CRAFTS-MAN'S SPIRIT HAS POSSESSED THE PIANO...
EHH...
IT SEEMS THAT THE ARTISAN WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE PIANO UNTIL THE VERY END.
AFTER-WARD, ANOTHER PERSON MADE SURE TO FINISH IT FOR HIM BUT...
We almost got stranded on our way back...
UP TO THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS FOR A BIT ...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T ENJOY HANGING OUT TO-GETHER.
WHERE DID THE PAIR OF YOU GO?
YEAH.
THE GRAND-SON OF THE CRAFTS-MAN?
WE MET WITH THE GRANDSON OF THE PERSON WHO MADE THAT PIANO.
THE ARTISAN WHO MADE THAT PIANO...
...AP-PARENTLY DIED JUST A LITTLE BEFORE HE COMPLETED IT.
NO, I DON'T KNOW.
Thanks.
Here.
AM I WRONG ?
THAT MIGHT BE IT, BUT IT ALSO MIGHT NOT BE.
WE WON'T KNOW UNLESS WE SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.
BA-BUMP

CLATTER
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HER SOUL REALLY IS IN THE FAN!
WHEN YOU WERE SAVED BY HER SACRIFICE ?
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE...
MY LITTLE SISTER ISN'T DEAD!
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER.
COULD IT BE ...
BUT SHE'S THERE.
SEE IT... BA-BUMP
IN REALITY.
BA-BUMP
SETO ...
WHEN YOU SAY YOUR SISTER IS INSIDE YOUR FAN...DID YOU SEE HER OR SOMETHING?
...THAT IF SHE'S NOT THERE...
IF SHE'S NOT THERE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING?
SETO WON'T DIE.
MY LITTLE SISTER IS THE ONE WHO WAS SACRIFICED.


BAM
LATER
SETO ?!
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ISN'T WRONG, BUT...
EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR YOU IF HIS LITTLE SISTER WASN'T AROUND.
THERE'S NO USE SAYING THOSE SORTS OF THINGS TO SETO.
YOU'LL ONLY HURT HIM.
...WON'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING?
WHY ...
SHE'LL COME BACK INTO THIS BODY!
DID YOUR LITTLE SISTER SAY...
...THAT SHE WANTED TO RETURN TO YOUR BODY?!
DID YOU HEAR HER SAY THAT?!


I NEVER THOUGHT THAT...
REALLY?
NOT ONE LITTLE BIT?
IT, HIS LITTLE SISTER WASN'T AROUND."
BUT THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I DON'T WANT SETO TO DISAPPEAR...
REALLY?
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HIS LITTLE SISTER WASN'T AROUND!
I THINK RECENT EVENTS HAVE CONFUSED SETO, SO...
YOU SHOULD BE CONFUSED TOO.
I DON'T THINK THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT.
DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HIS LITTLE SISTER WASN'T AROUND.
SETO'S ...!
OH.


Heaven's Will


IT SEEMS HE WENT OUT. Though dinner is soon...
UMM, WHERE IS SETO?
THE PERSON ...
ARE YOU THERE?
...PROTECTING SETO.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANTED TO HURT HIM.
I WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

HELLO. THIS IS SATORU TAKAMIYA.
THIS IS MY FIRST COMIC IN A WHILE.

WHILE I WAS GONE I DID A VARIETY OF THINGS, LIKE MOVING FROM *CHAO* MAGAZINE TO *CHU CHU*.

I WROTE *HEAVEN'S WILL* WHILE IN A STATE OF CONFUSION. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE ART BEING MAINLY BLACK AND WHITE. THAT WOULD MAKE IT PLAIN! AND IF I PUT DOWN TONES, WOULD THAT MAKE THE ART TOO BUSY? ALSO, I DIDN'T WANT MY SCRIPT TO REFLECT HOW CONFUSED I WAS AROUND APRIL (IT'S JUNE NOW). CONSEQUENTLY I DID A LOT OF RE-DRAWING. BUT WHEN JUNE ROLLED AROUND, I REALIZED THAT I WASN'T ONE HUNDRED PERCENT HAPPY WITH MY SCRIPT EITHER. SO I THOUGHT, "NEVER MIND! IT'LL JUST BE AN UGLY LOOKING RECORD OF MY ARTISTIC GROWTH." HYAAA! I DECIDED TO SEND IT TO MY EDITOR ANYWAY.

THIS IS OFTEN HOW I FEEL ABOUT MY MANGA. WHILE I'M DRAWING IT I'M THINKING EVERYTHING LOOKS GREAT. THEN WHEN I'M DONE I LOOK AT IT AND SEE HOW UNFINISHED IT REALLY IS. IT HAPPENS EVERY TIME.

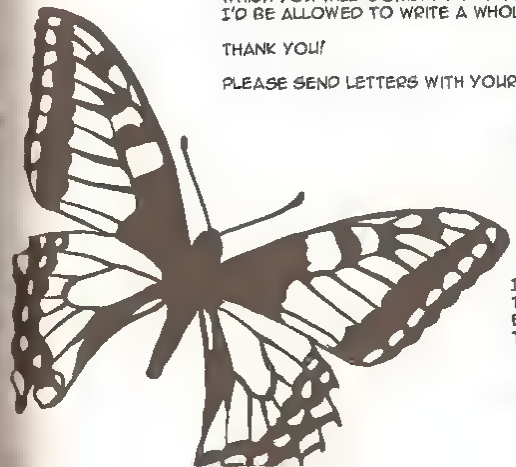
FOR SOME REASON THESE ARTISTIC DOUBTS CREEP INTO MY HEAD WHEN I'M ASKED TO WRITE THESE EPILOGUE-LIKE THINGS. I ALWAYS WONDER IF I SHOULD SHARE THEM WITH MY READERS OR NOT. BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, I CAN'T HELP IT!

SO, FINALLY, I'LL BRING THIS TO AN END.
A SINCERE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO READS THIS MANGA. UNFORTUNATELY IT ENDED WITHOUT ME BEING ABLE TO EVEN DO HALF OF WHAT I HAD PLANNED. SETO AND MIKUZU NEVER FELL IN LOVE, SO IT'S A BRILLIANTLY INCOMPLETE STORY. BUT STILL...I'M GLAD I HAD A CHANCE TO WRITE IT.

WHEN I WROTE THE SHORT STORY "THE HEAVEN TO WHICH YOU WILL SOMEDAY RETURN," I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ALLOWED TO WRITE A WHOLE VOLUME.

THANK YOU!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS WITH YOUR COMMENTS HERE.

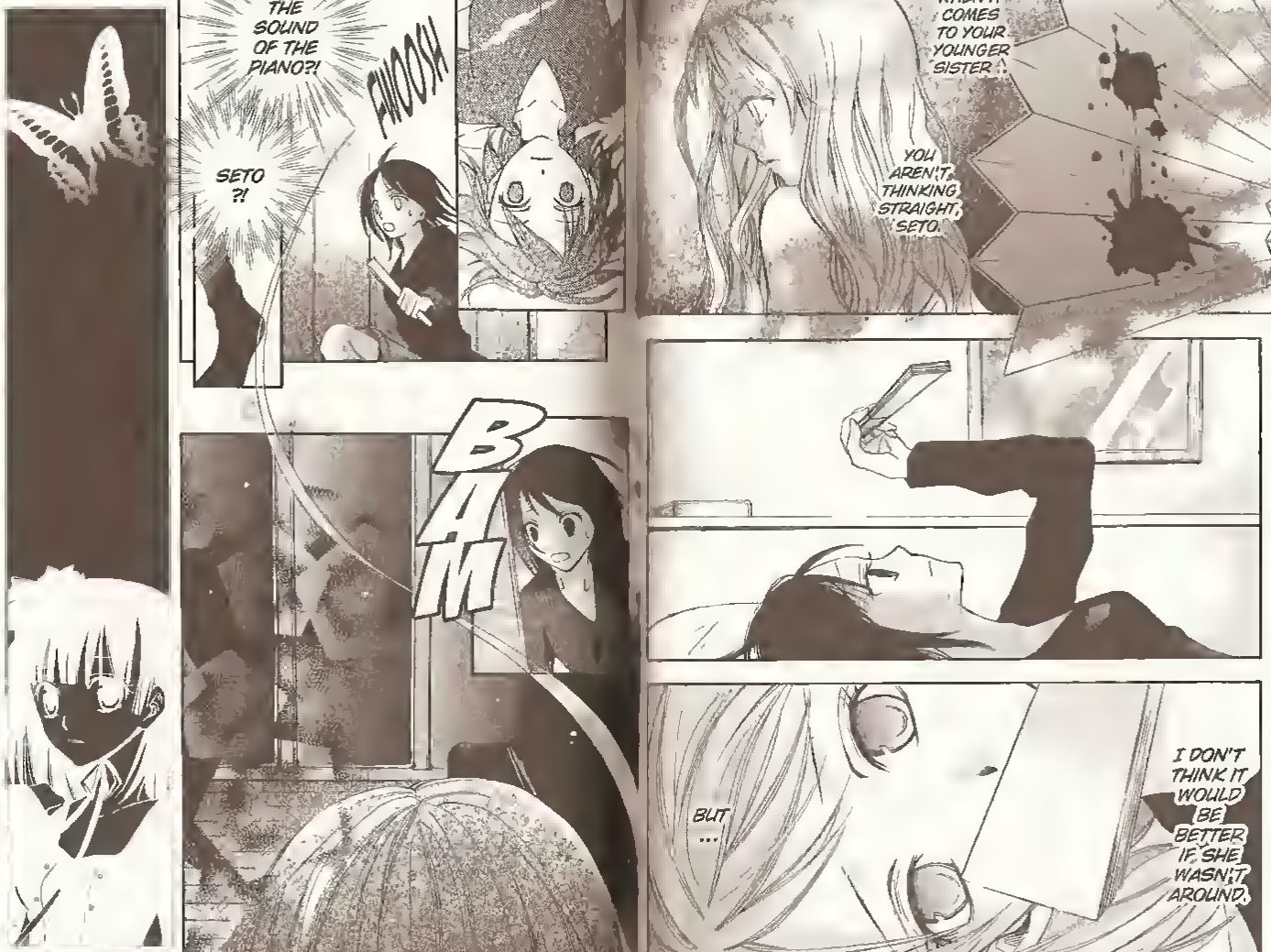


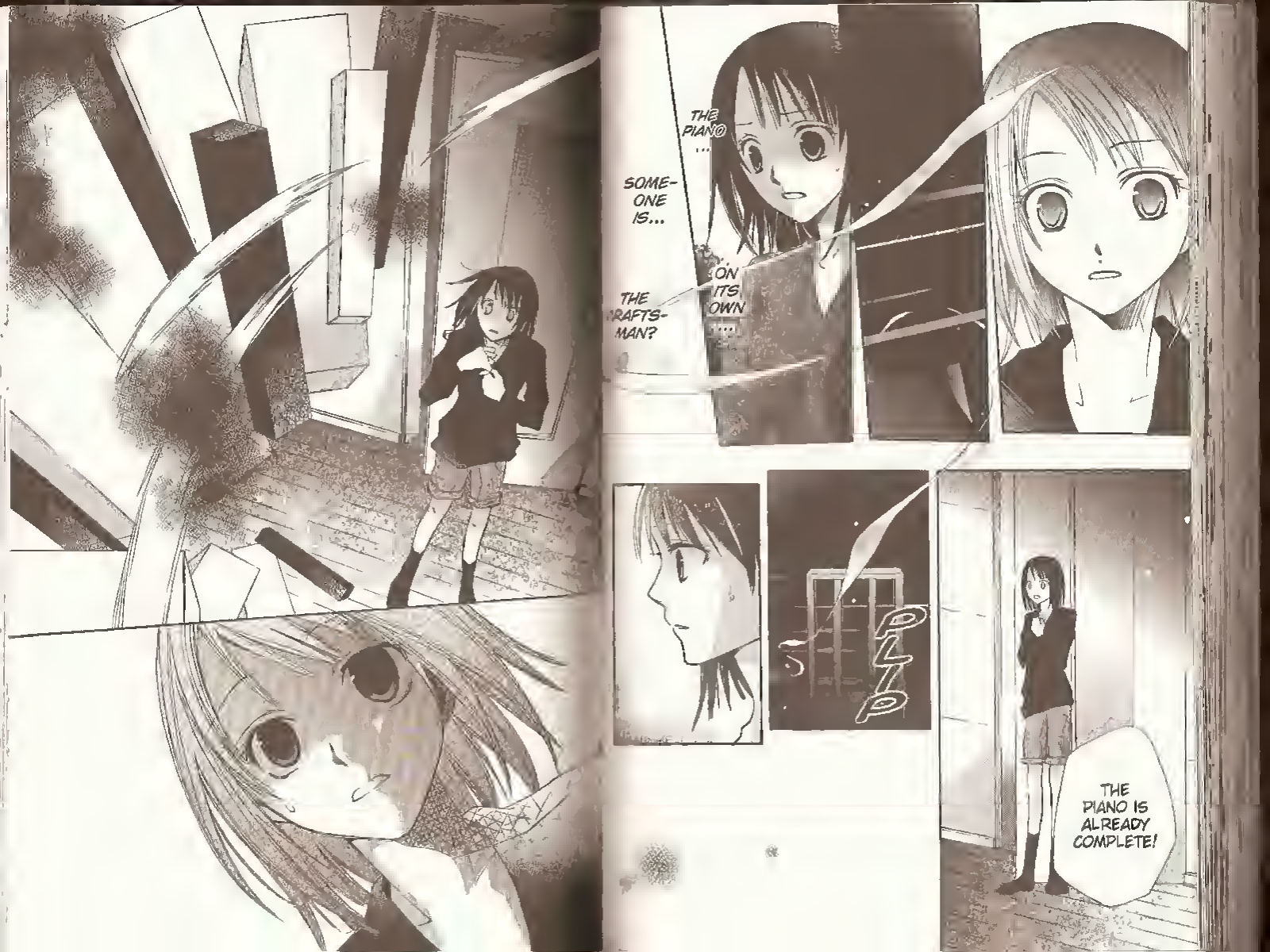
Satoru Takamiya
c/o VIZ Media
P.O. Box 77064
San Francisco,
CA 94107

I'M SLOW, BUT I WILL TRY TO REPLY TO EVERY LETTER. WELL THEN, LATER!

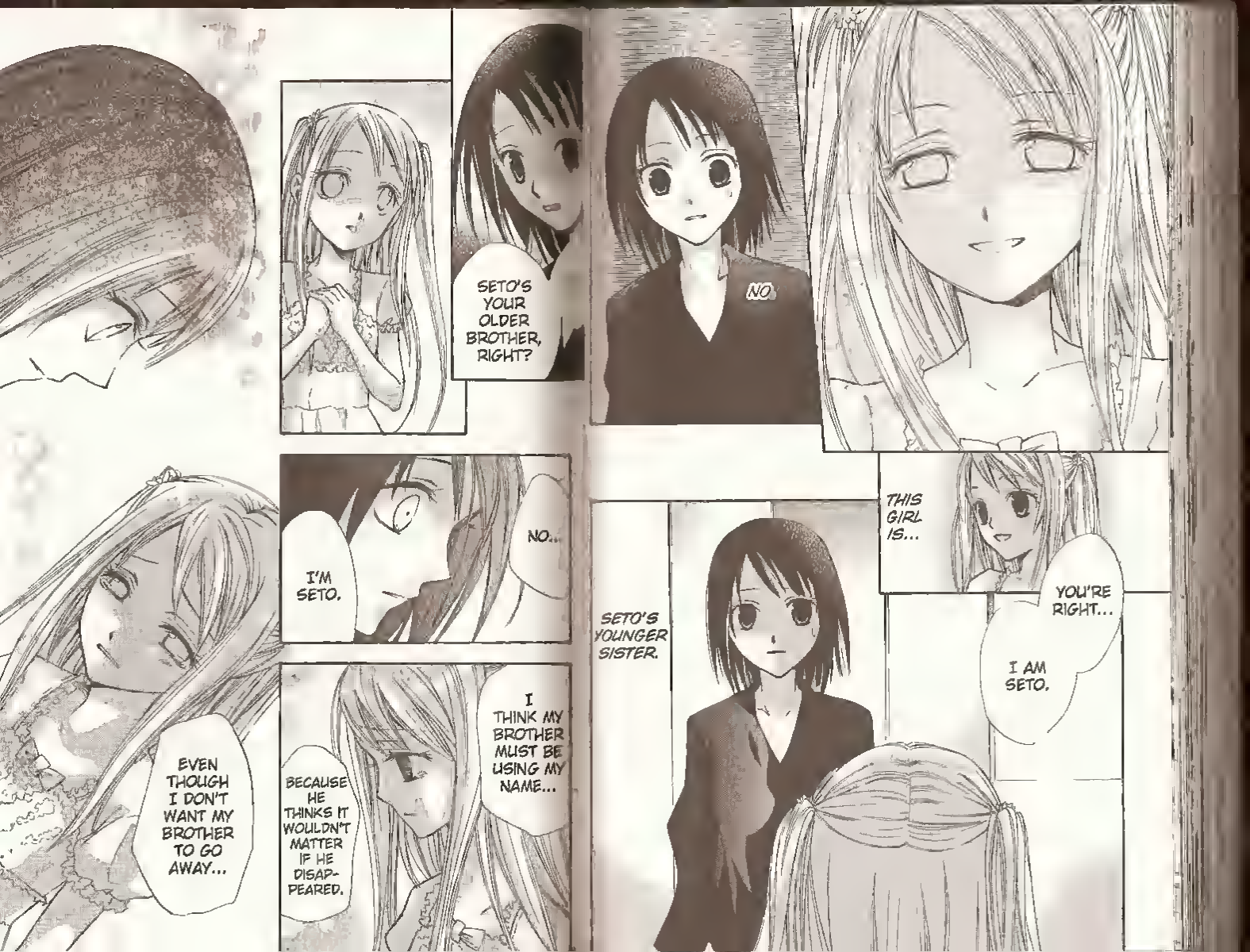
Satoru Takamiya

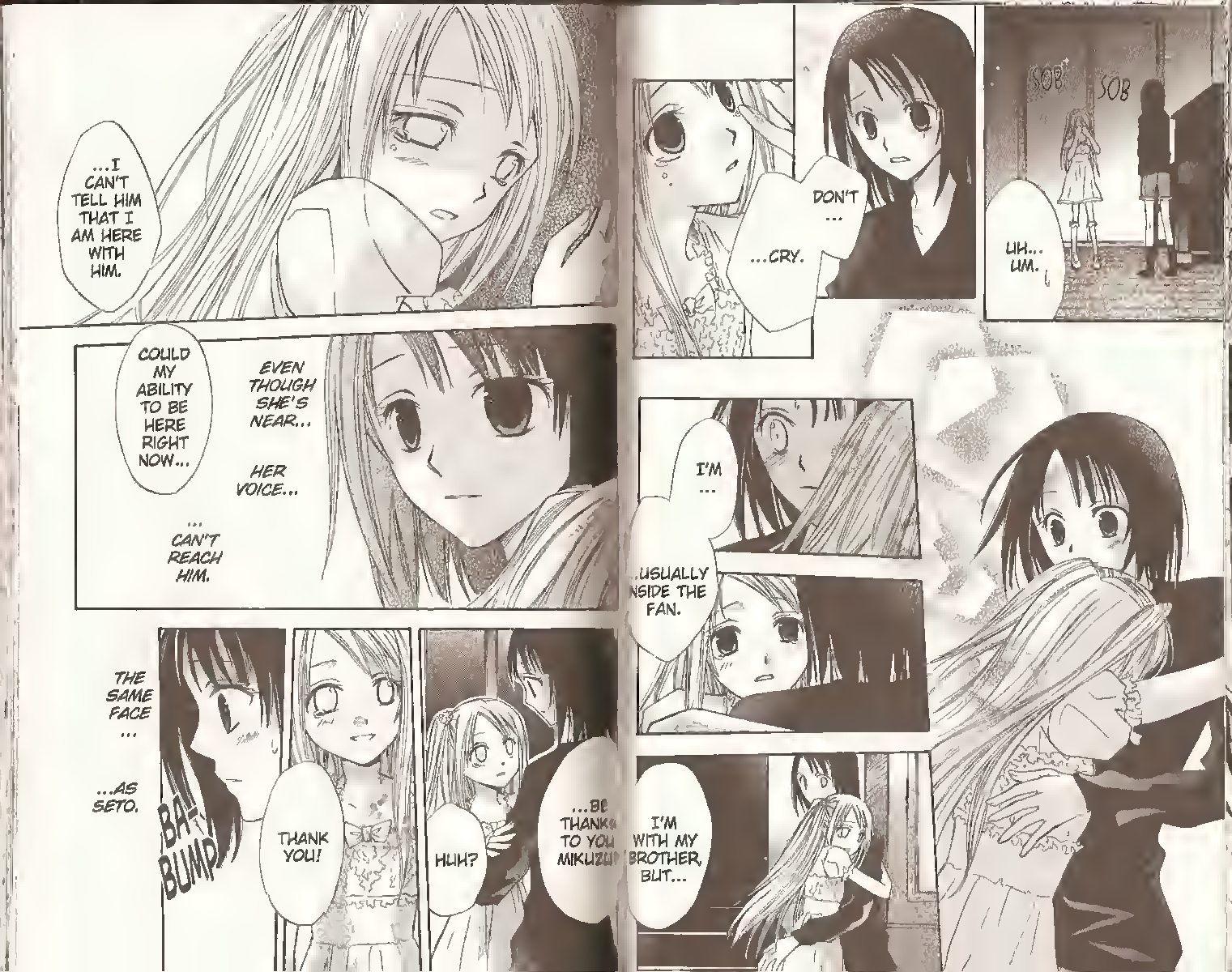
SETO ...
WHERE DID YOU GO?
I WASN'T THINKING THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOUR SISTER WASN'T AROUND...
I WAS THINKING THAT THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
PLOP
I WAS SCARED THAT I COULD SEE THE ONI.
YOU TAUGHT ME THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING IF I WAS SIMPLY SCARED.
YOU'RE STRONG AND MYSTERIOUS... FRIGHTENING... AND A KIND PERSON.
BUT ...
YOU SAVED ME, SETO.
BUT...
I THOUGHT THAT I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE. I THOUGHT THAT NO ONE WOULD SAVE ME.

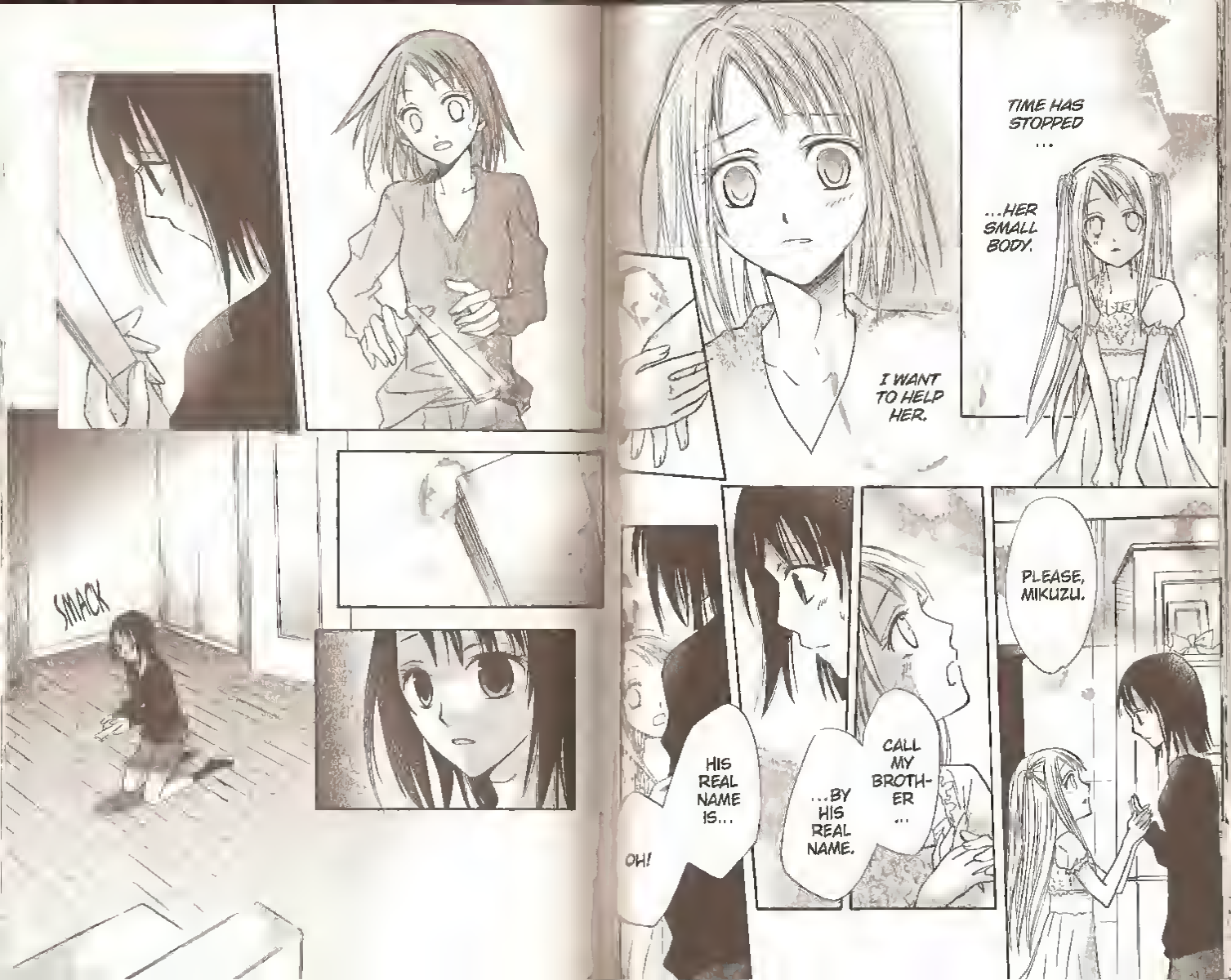

THE SOUND OF THE PIANO?!
FWOOSH
SETO ?!
BAM
WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR YOUNGER SISTER...
YOU AREN'T THINKING STRAIGHT, SETO.
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF SHE WASN'T AROUND.
BUT ...

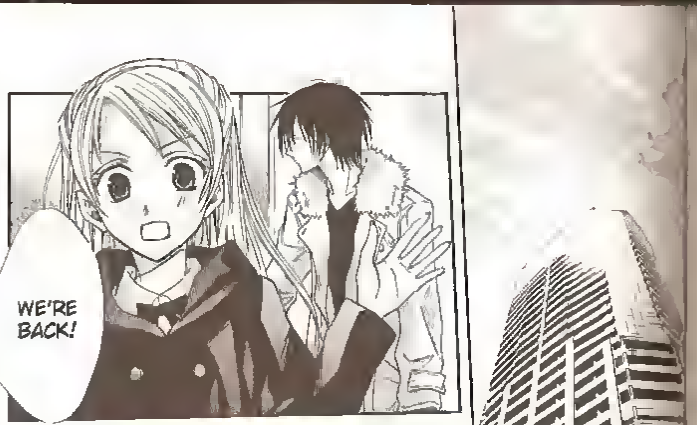

THE PIANO...
SOME-ONE IS...
ON ITS OWN...
THE CRAFTS-MAN?
PLIP
THE PIANO IS ALREADY COMPLETE!

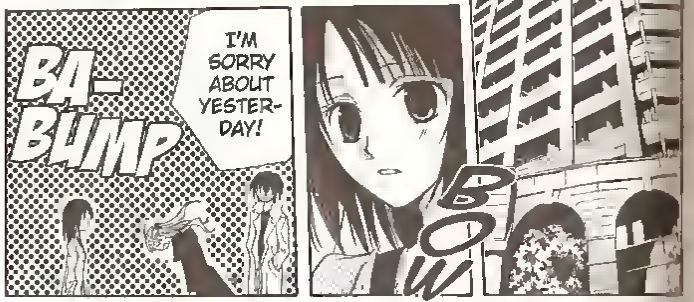
WHO IS THAT?!
HUH ?!
SETO?!
BA
SETO ?!
BOOM

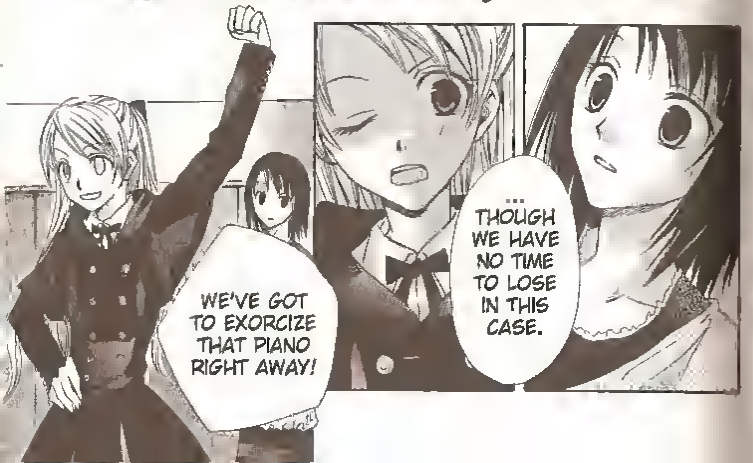

SETO'S YOUR OLDER BROTHER, RIGHT?
NO
THIS GIRL IS...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I AM SETO.
SETO'S YOUNGER SISTER.
NO...
I'M SETO.
I THINK MY BROTHER MUST BE USING MY NAME...
BECAUSE HE THINKS IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF HE DISAP-PEARED.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT MY BROTHER TO GO AWAY...

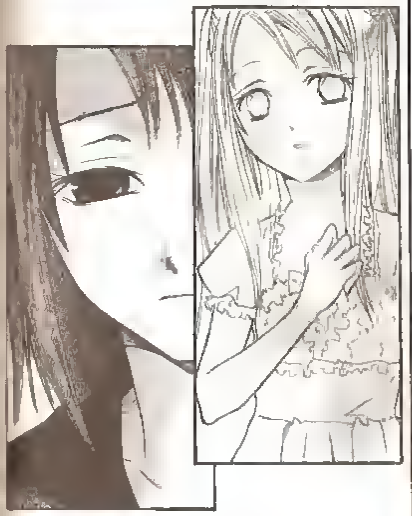

...I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I AM HERE WITH HIM.
COULD MY ABILITY TO BE HERE RIGHT NOW...
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NEAR...
HER VOICE...
... CAN'T REACH HIM.
THE SAME FACE ...
...AS SETO.
BA-BUMP
THANK YOU!
HUH?
...BE THANK TO YOU MIKUZU
DON'T ...
...CRY.
SOB
SOB
UH... UM.
I'M ...
USUALLY NSIDE THE FAN.
I'M WITH MY BROTHER, BUT...


SMACK
I WANT TO HELP HER.
TIME HAS STOPPED ...
...HER SMALL BODY.
PLEASE, MIKUZU.
CALL MY BROTHER ...
...BY HIS REAL NAME.
OH!
HIS REAL NAME IS...







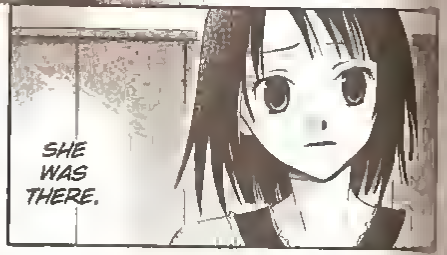


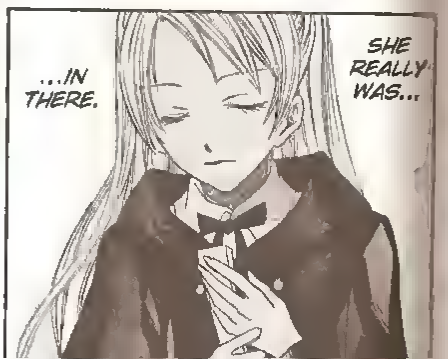
THE PERSON MOST IMPORTANT TO SETO...

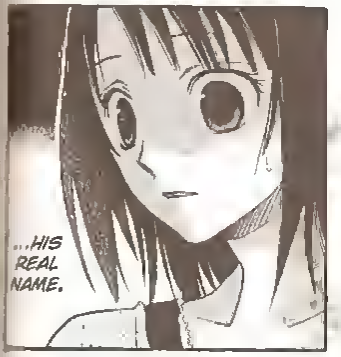
REALLY WAS THERE.

I'M SORRY.
WHAT AM I DOING?
EVEN THOUGH I WAS GETTING WORKED ABOUT MY SISTER BY INSIDE OF THIS.

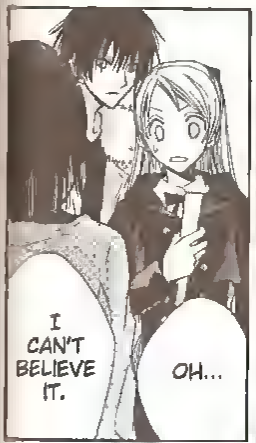
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, IT WON'T REACH SETO.
IT HURTS.
...I DON'T KNOW HIS REAL NAME, EITHER.

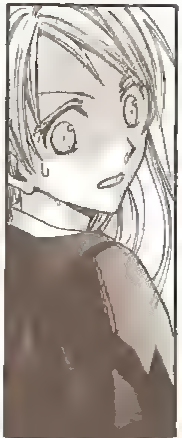

SHE WAS THERE.

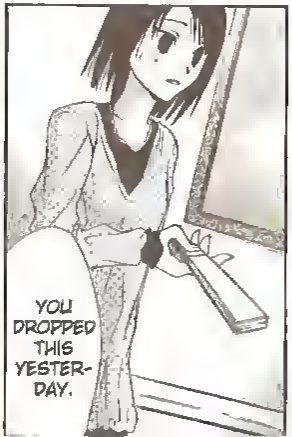

...IN THERE.
SHE REALLY WAS...

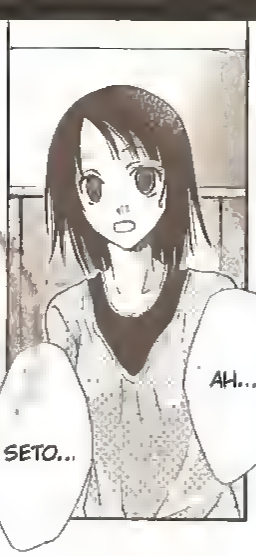

...HIS REAL NAME.

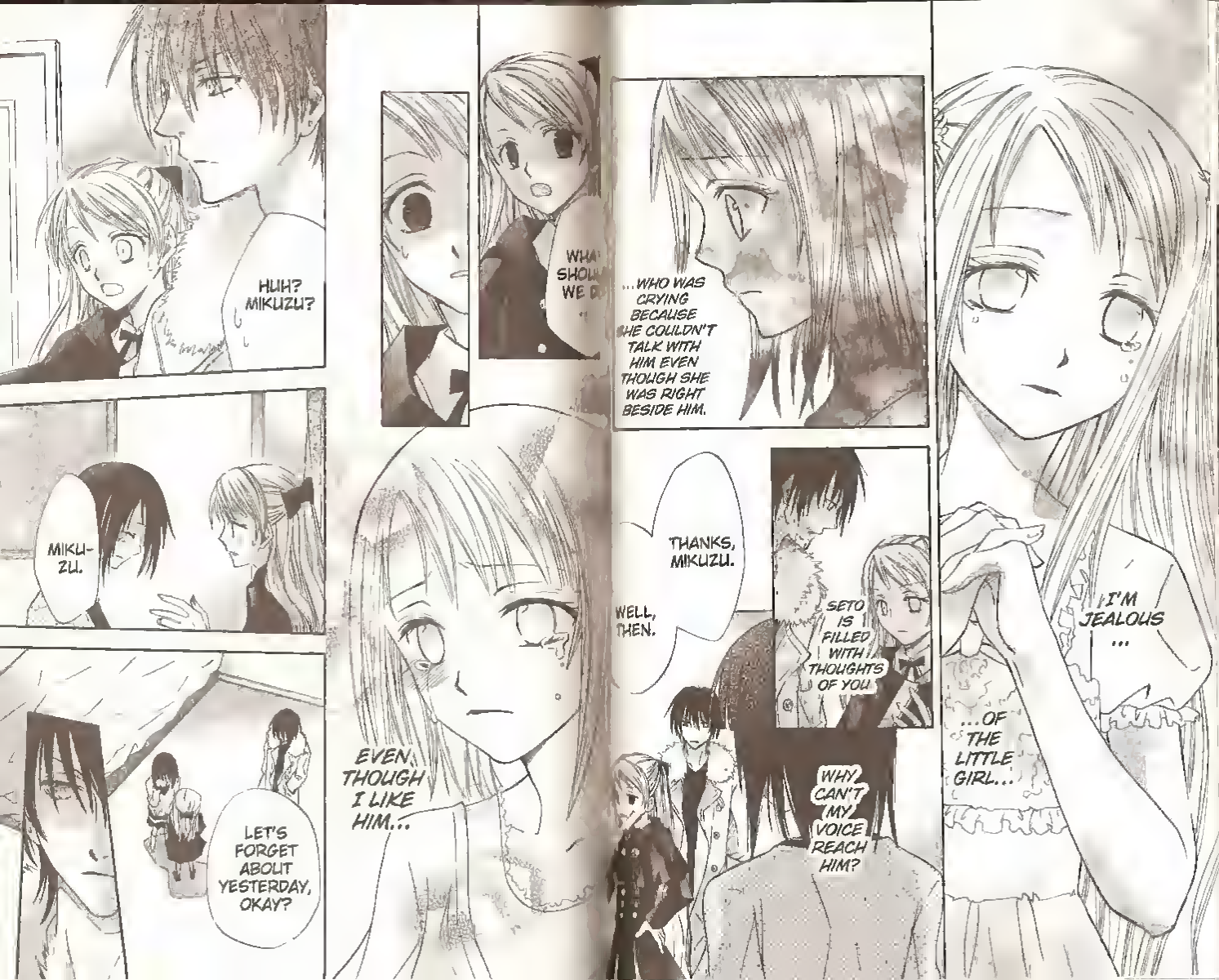
I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
HEY... HEY, HERE!


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
OH...



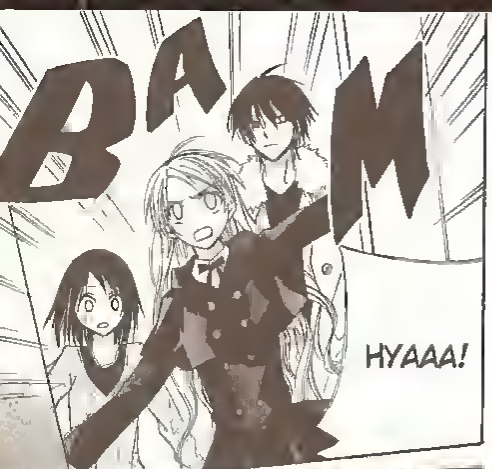

YOU DROPPED THIS YESTER-DAY.


"CALL MY BROTHER BY HIS REAL NAME."
AH...
SETO...

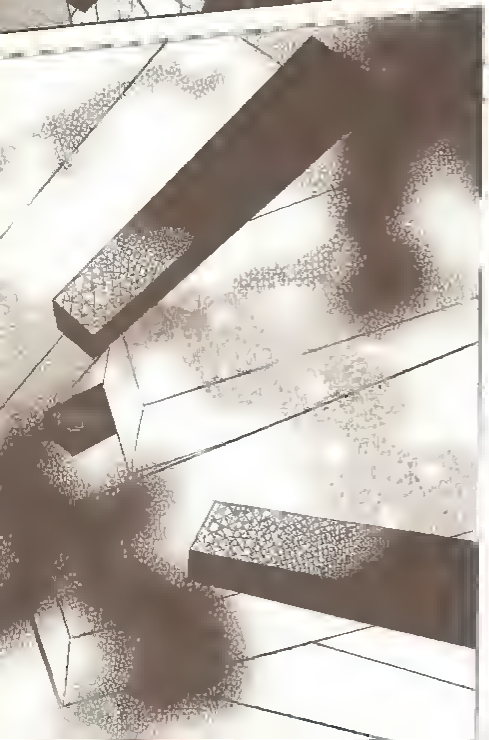

HUH? MIKUZU?
MIKU-ZU.
LET'S FORGET ABOUT YESTERDAY, OKAY?
EVEN THOUGH I LIKE HIM...
...WHO WAS CRYING BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T TALK WITH HIM EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS RIGHT BESIDE HIM.
THANKS, MIKUZU.
WELL, THEN.
SETO IS FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF YOU
WHY CAN'T MY VOICE REACH HIM?
I'M JEALOUS ...
...OF THE LITTLE GIRL...

THIS ISN'T POSSESSION! IT'S DANGEROUS, SO WAIT A SECOND!
WAIT!
WHAT, WHO'S...? IS THE MAID POSSESSED?!
I SAW A GHOST THAT LOOKED LIKE THE KEYBOARD OF A PIANO.
I HEARD THE SOUND OF A PIANO AND WENT TO LOOK.
YESTERDAY, WHEN I WAS ALONE ...
IT'S NOT POSSESSION? AND WHAT'S SO DANGEROUS?
BUT IT SEEMS THE ONI CONNECTED TO IT HAS GOTTEN STRONGER. I'M NOT MISTAKEN, AM I?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND ...
A PIANO?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CARE FOR YOU...
FORGET ABOUT IT...
AND ACT LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED?
MY VOICE CAN'T REACH YOU...
SNAP
THE SOUND OF A PIANO?!
THOUGH I WISH THAT IT WOULD.

A KENKI CAN MAKE ANY KIND OF ONI COME INTO EXISTENCE ...
...EXIST FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE THEM. BUT THEY DON'T EXIST TO THOSE WHO CAN'T, RIGHT?
ONI...
It feels good?
...BE A POWER AMPLIFIER FOR THE ONI?
MIGHT THE KENKI ...
I THINK THAT FOR ONI WITHOUT SOULS OR BODIES, THE CERTAINTY OF THEIR EXISTENCE EQUALS HOW POWERFUL THEY ARE.
...EVEN MORE CERTAIN.
AND MAKE ... EXISTENCE OF ANY ONI.
MIKUZU?
I THINK IT'S HER FAULT.
WHY ALL OF THE SUDDEN?
HU... WHA... ME?!
BUT I DON'T HATE BEING AROUND HER.
I'M NOT.
I DON'T LIKE HER ...
NNOOSH
KAGARI, STOP PICKING ON MIKUZU AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
Picking on...
BECAUSE IT FEELS GOOD.
WHY...

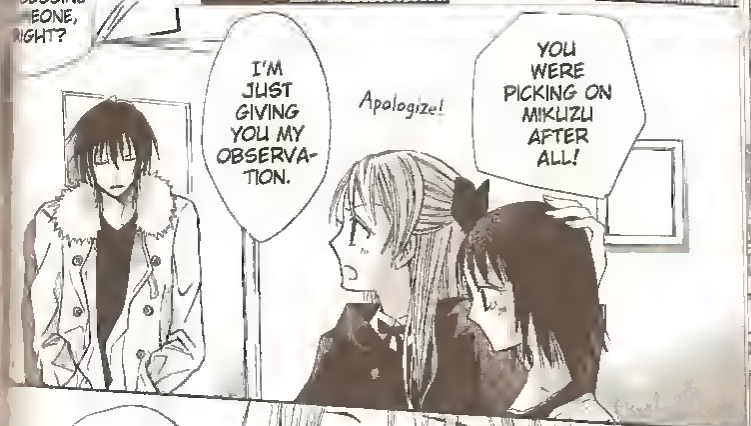


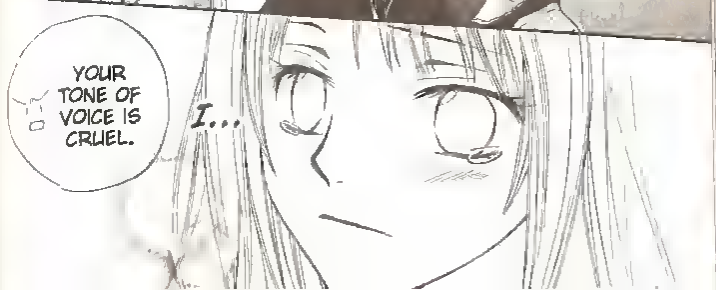
REALLY LIKE...

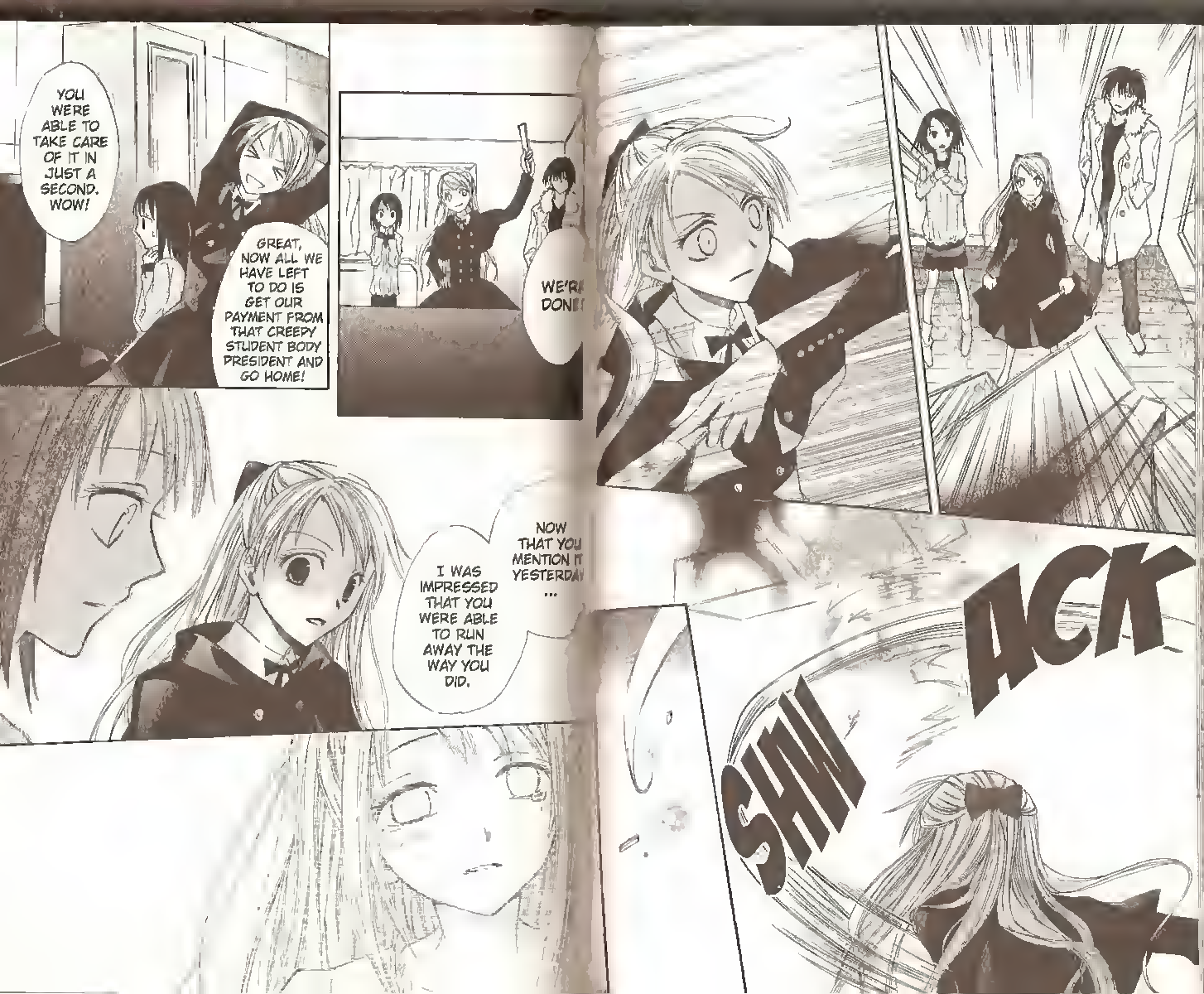


SETO.

NOT...
THAT'S ...
...IT!
GRIP
BECAUSE OF ME THE PIANO IS GETTING EVEN WORSE...
I DO HATE THIS POWER!
BECAUSE IT'S APPEARED AS A CONCRETE FORM...
.WE CAN IT IT SESSING EONE, IGHT?

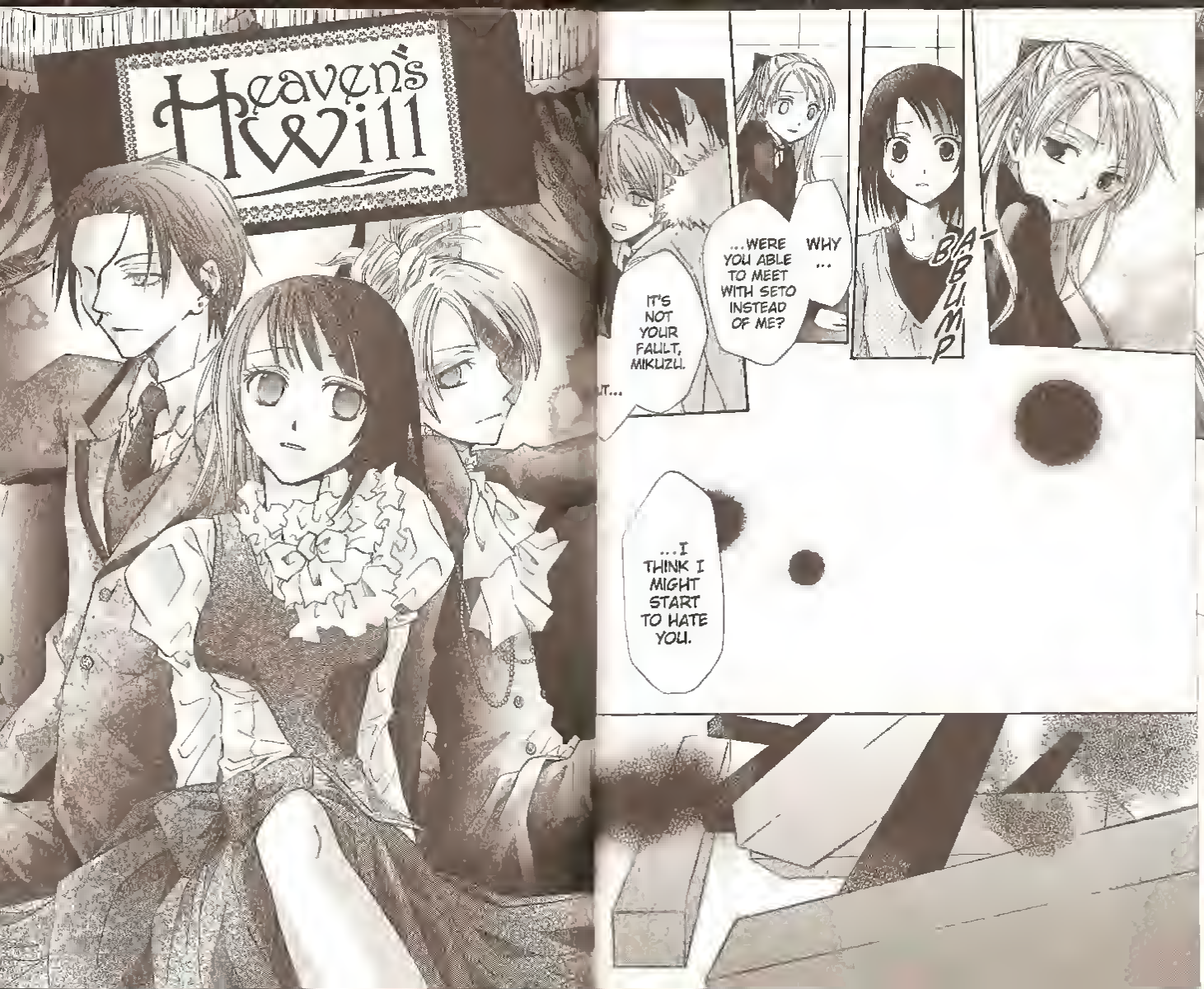


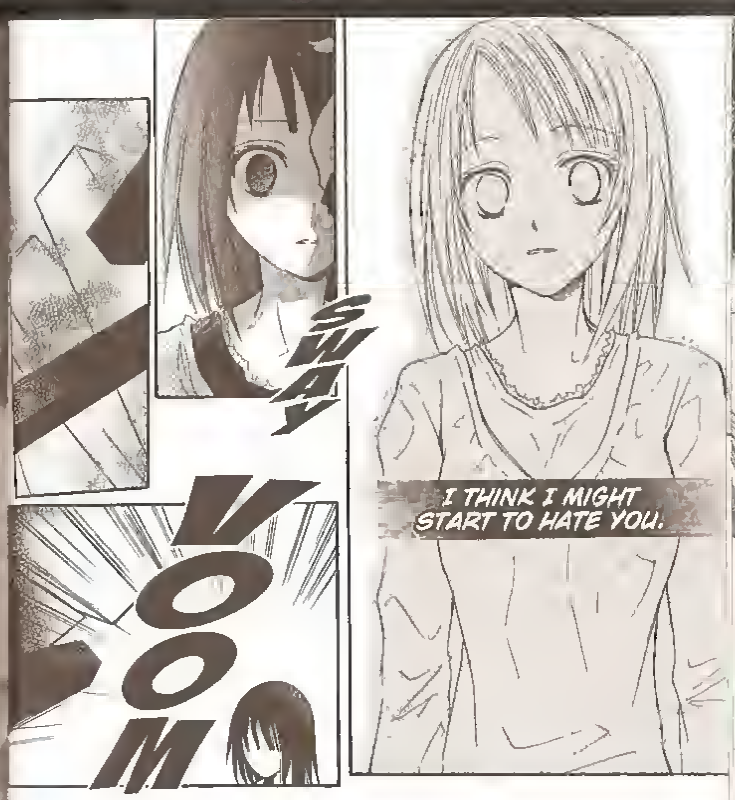



YOU WERE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF IT IN JUST A SECOND. WOW!
GREAT, NOW ALL WE HAVE LEFT TO DO IS GET OUR PAYMENT FROM THAT CREEPY STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND GO HOME!
WE'RE DONE!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT YESTERDAY ...
I WAS IMPRESSED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO RUN AWAY THE WAY YOU DID.
SHU
ACK

NO WAY
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH WE EXORCIZED IT!!
WHY?!
BECAUSE...
I WAS HELPED.
HUH?
BY WHO?
SETO.
SHE APPEARED FROM INSIDE THE FAN..
...AND SAVED ME.

CRASH
SETO MIGHT APPEAR, RIGHT?!
SETO...
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
YOU IDIOT! DEAL WITH IT QUICKLY!
LOOK OUT!
DODGE IT!!
THWACK


Heaven's Will
WHY ...
...WERE YOU ABLE TO MEET WITH SETO INSTEAD OF ME?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MIKUZU.
IT...
BA-BUMP
...I THINK I MIGHT START TO HATE YOU.



WHY YOU...

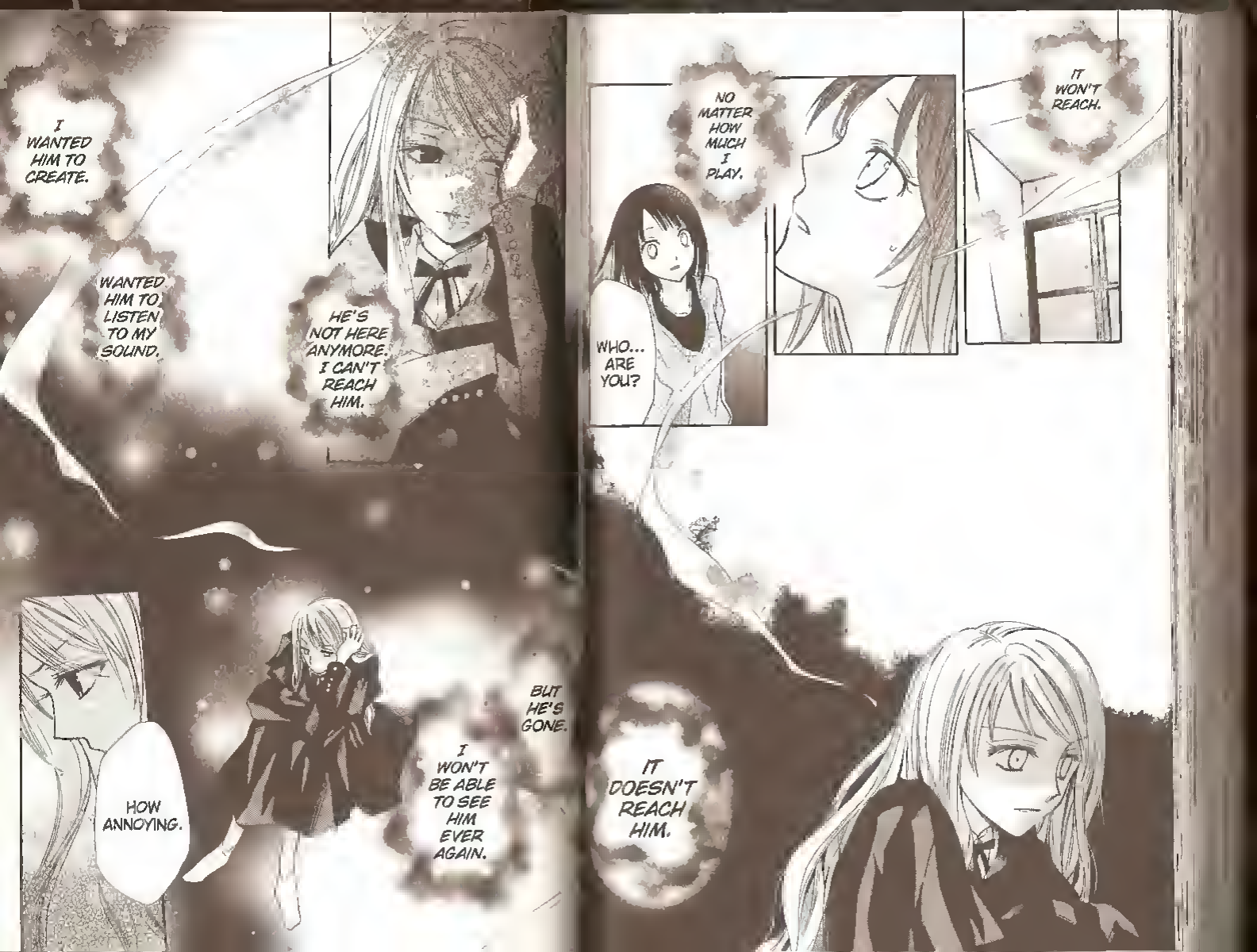
...AND NOT ME, MIKUZU?

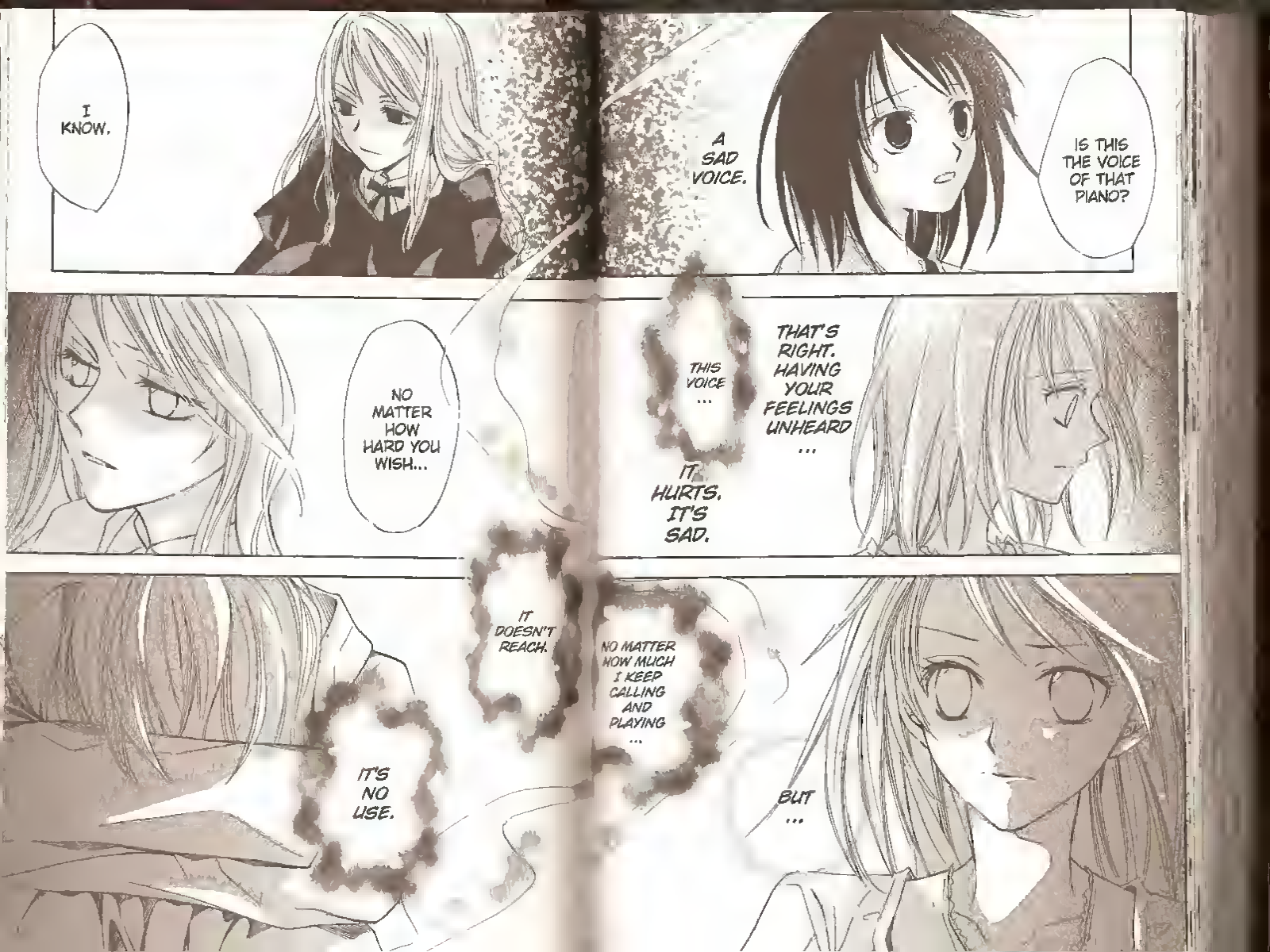
I'VE GOT TO HELP THEM!
?!
SLIDE
KAGARI!
JUST YOU, KAGARI?!
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN I PLAYED THE PIANO.
IT'S LIKE I ALONE AM BEING SPIT OUT.
I'M GOING INSIDE TO HELP HIM!
SO THEN...
!!
AH!
WHOOSH
BAM
GH.
OOM

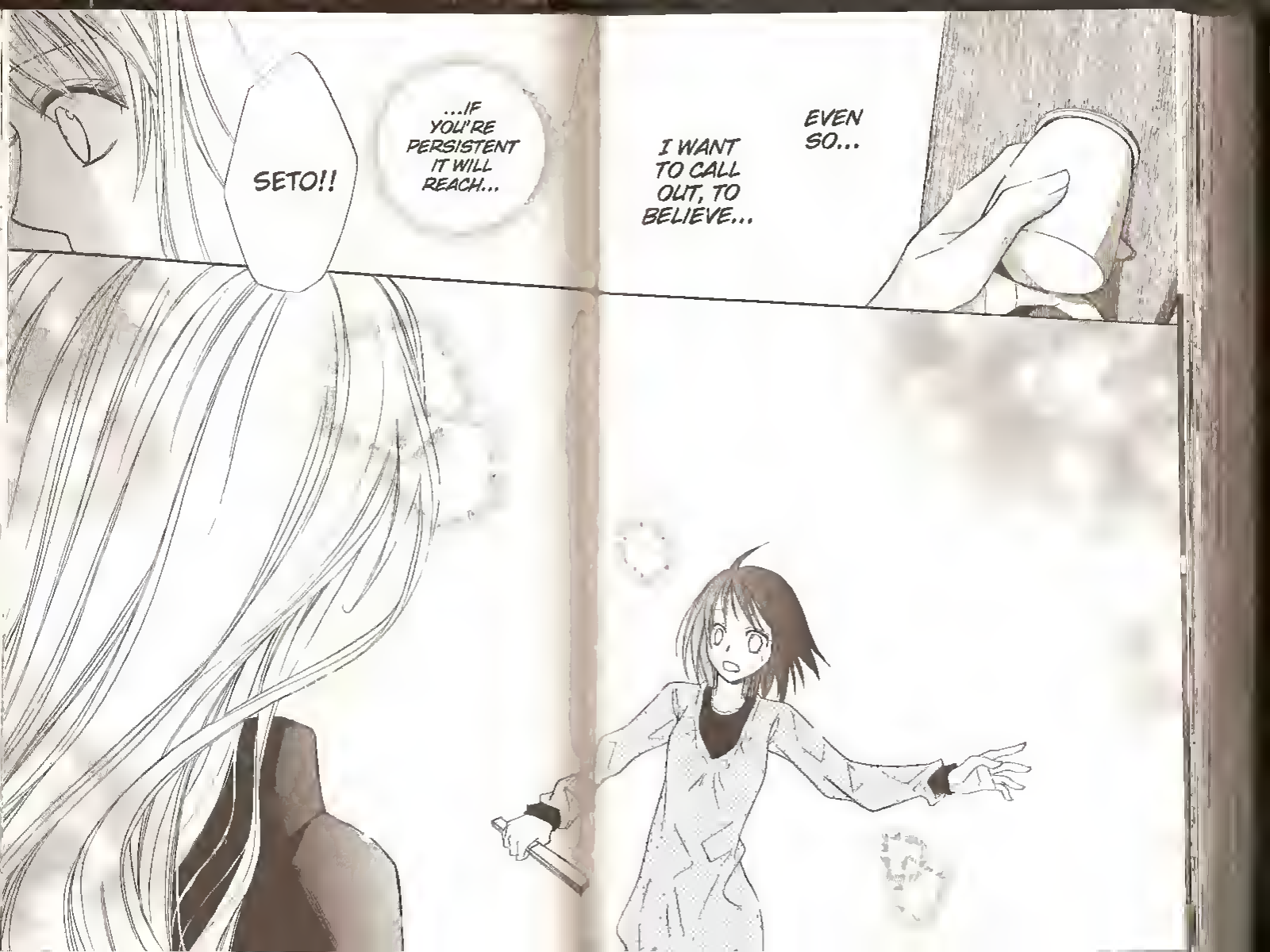
SETO HASN'T COME BACK YET. I THINK IT MIGHT BE TRULY DANGEROUS, BUT...
DO YOUR BEST.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE GOTTEN A KIND WORD FROM YOU, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S BECAUSE I NEED YOU TO SAVE SETO.
WOOSH
YES ...
I WILL.
I'M SURE I CAN SAVE HIM.
I'LL BE FINE.
IT MIGHT BE DANGER-OUS, YOU KNOW.
BE CAREFUL.
WHAT?
STARE

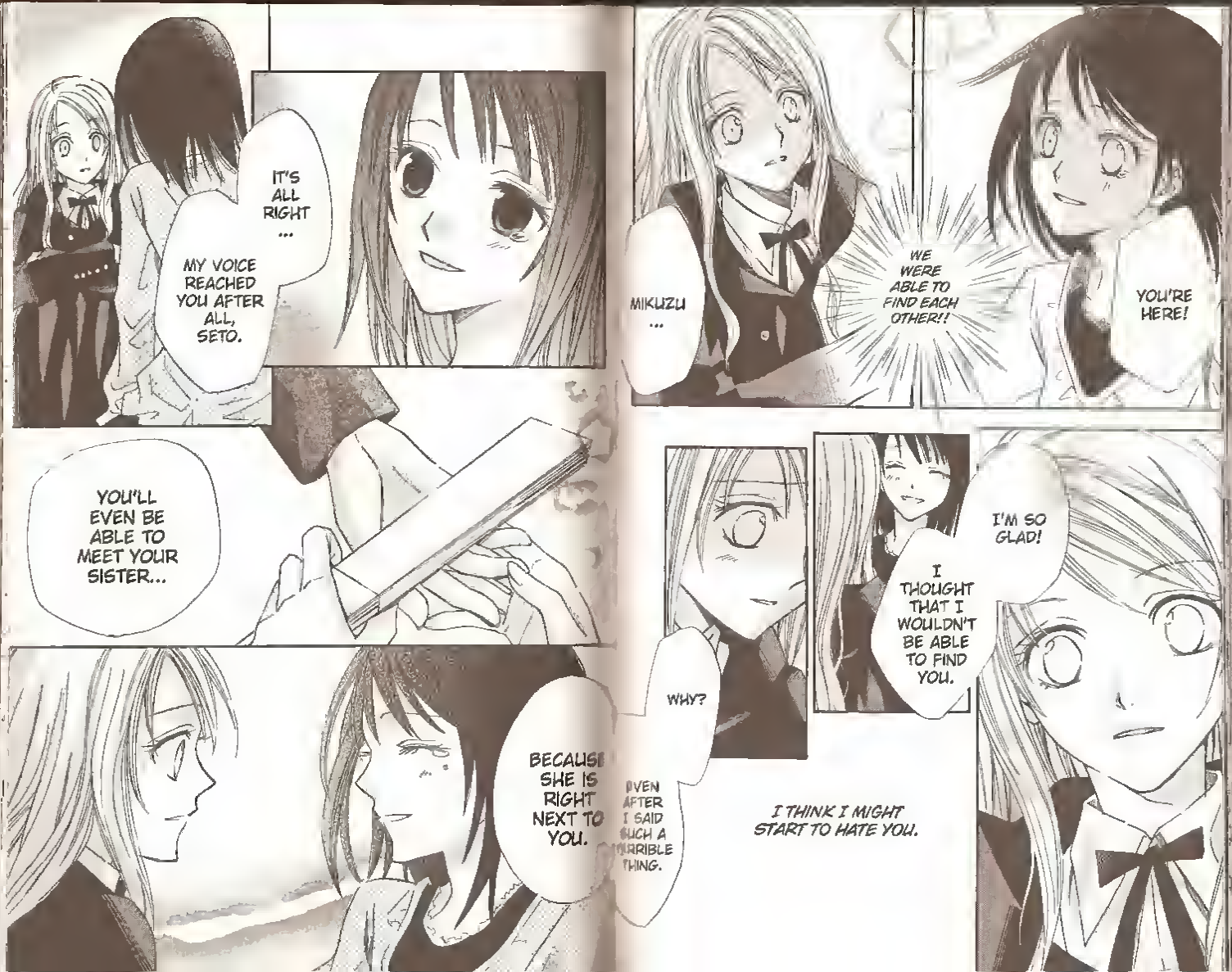
FWISH
KL
GRIN
2
WHERE COULD THIS BE?
WHERE ARE YOU, SETO?
A HOUSE?
SHW
AAH!
SLIDE
TUG
AAAH
I'M SCARED!
BA—
BBUMP
BA
BBUMP
UGH...

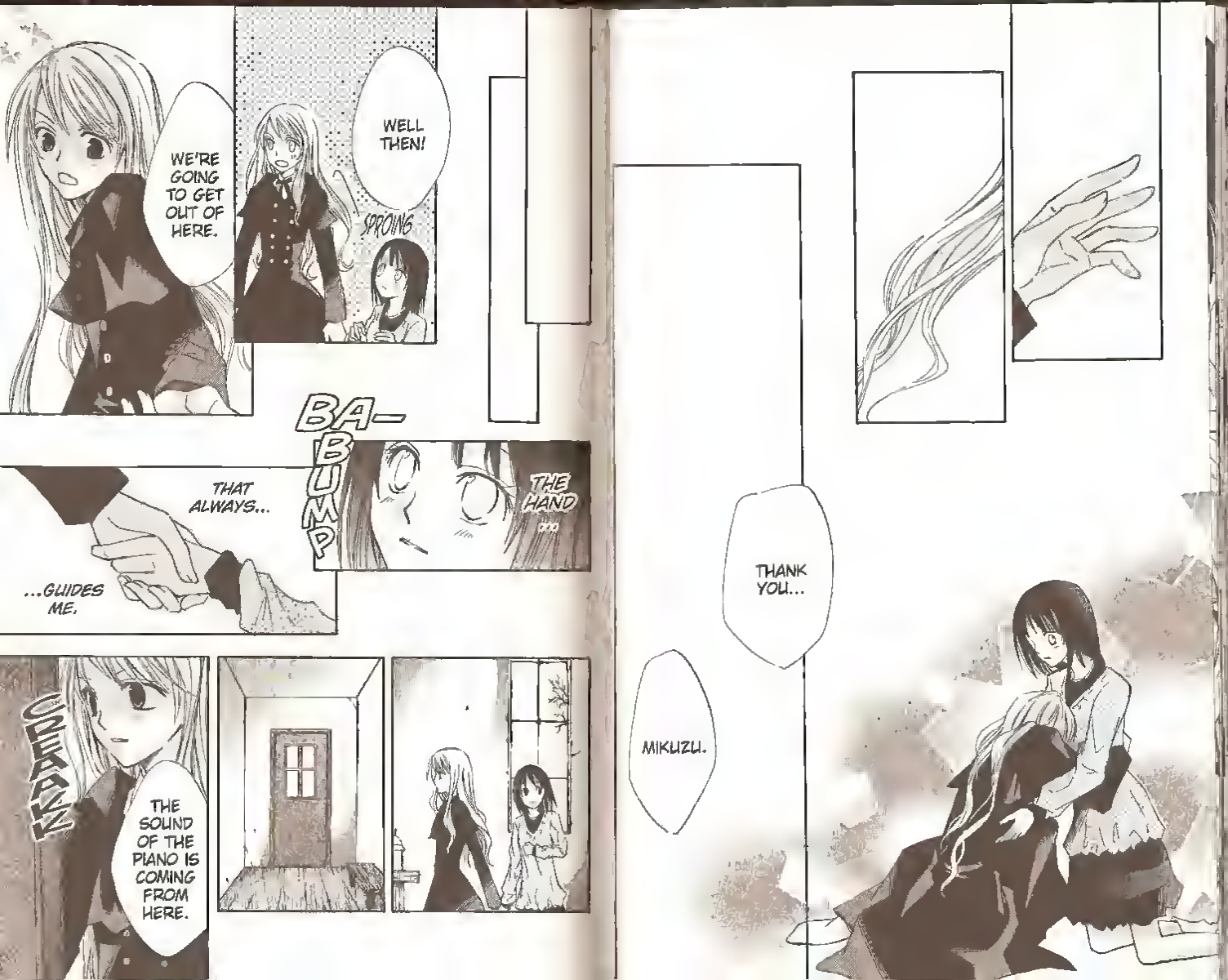
HUFF
HUFF
BAM
I CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE?!
CLICK
HUH?
WHOOSH
THE SAME ROOM AS BEFORE?!
THE DOOR I CAME THROUGH IS GONE.
SHIVER
I CAN'T GET OUT...
I WONDER IF SETO IS LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE LIKE THIS TOO.
THE SOUND OF A PIANO!

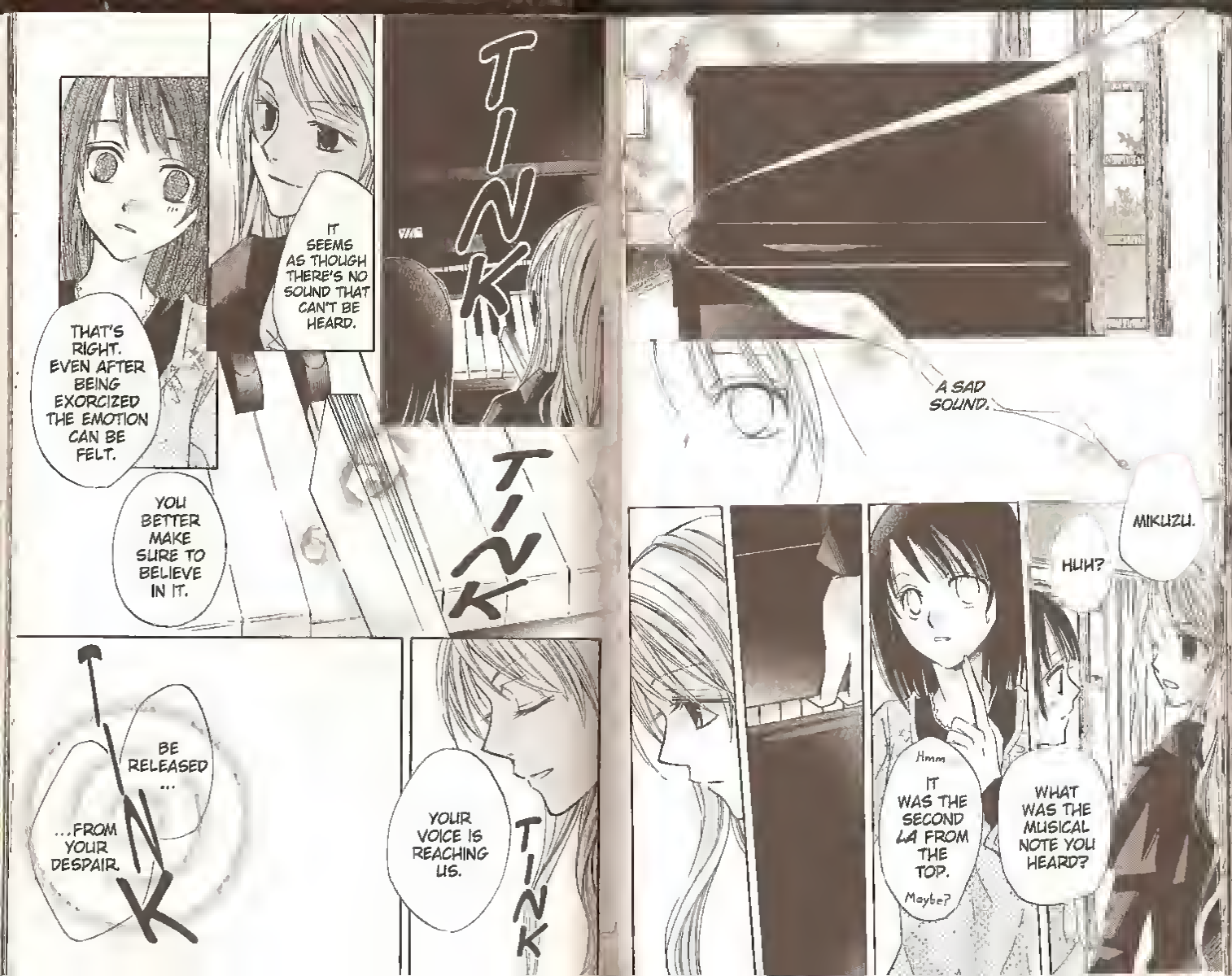

IT WON'T REACH.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PLAY.
WHO... ARE YOU?
IT DOESN'T REACH HIM.
I WANTED HIM TO CREATE.
WANTED HIM TO LISTEN TO MY SOUND.
HE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE. I CAN'T REACH HIM.
BUT HE'S GONE.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM EVER AGAIN.
HOW ANNOYING.


I KNOW.
A SAD VOICE.
IS THIS THE VOICE OF THAT PIANO?
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WISH...
THIS VOICE ...
IT HURTS. IT'S SAD.
THAT'S RIGHT. HAVING YOUR FEELINGS UNHEARD ...
IT DOESN'T REACH.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I KEEP CALLING AND PLAYING ...
IT'S NO USE.
BUT ...


SETO!!
...IF YOU'RE PERSISTENT IT WILL REACH...
I WANT TO CALL OUT, TO BELIEVE...
EVEN SO...


IT'S ALL RIGHT ...
MY VOICE REACHED YOU AFTER ALL, SETO.
.....
YOU'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO MEET YOUR SISTER...
BECAUSE SHE IS RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.
MIKUZU ...
WE WERE ABLE TO FIND EACH OTHER!!
YOU'RE HERE!
I'M SO GLAD!
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND YOU.
WHY?
EVEN AFTER I SAID SUCH A TERRIBLE THING.
I THINK I MIGHT START TO HATE YOU.


WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE.
WELL THEN!
SPRING
BA-
BUMP
THE HAND
THAT ALWAYS...
...GUIDES ME.
CREAK
THE SOUND OF THE PIANO IS COMING FROM HERE.
THANK YOU...
MIKUZU.


A SAD SOUND.
MIKUZU.
HUH?
WHAT WAS THE MUSICAL NOTE YOU HEARD?
Hmm
IT WAS THE SECOND LA FROM THE TOP.
Maybe?
TINK
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THERE'S NO SOUND THAT CAN'T BE HEARD.
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN AFTER BEING EXORCIZED THE EMOTION CAN BE FELT.
YOU BETTER MAKE SURE TO BELIEVE IN IT.
TINK
YOUR VOICE IS REACHING US.
TINK
BE RELEASED ...
...FROM YOUR DESPAIR.
TINK

TUG
HUH?
SHUDDER
VITALITY
KAGARI!
I'M A LITTLE LIGHT-HEADED TOO.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT.
FOR SOME REASON I'M WOBBLING
You've probably lost your vitality
THE END
SHOOO
WE'RE BACK!
WHAT THE HECK?
BE SUR-PRISED OR SOME-THING.
NO, I'M COM-PLETELY FINE, SO PUT ME DOWN PLEASE!
WHOA WHOA WHOA
Don't struggle
SHOOP
HUUH ?!
Don't make this worse!
THAT'S RIGHT.
GO AHEAD, MAKE USE OF HIM.
YOU WERE REALLY ACTIVE TODAY, MIKUZU, SO...
WHOA ?!
SHUDDER
MIKUZU ?!
THUD
WOBBLE WOBBLE
I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO RETURN.
IT'S HARD TO TELL!
I AM. WEL-COME BACK.
WE'RE BACK.

WELL THEN, AS FOR THE PROMISED REWARD ...
ACTUALLY C.D.
SIGH
WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE UP SOME MONEY?
It's fair of him
THAT GROSS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT! ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CAKE EVERY DAY AS A REWARD...
HOW CAN I REFUSE ?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT EATING YOUR FILL OF CAKE AND SWEETS EVERY DAY?
SPARKLE
Leave it to me!
I AM THE ONE...
WHO ASKED THAT THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT SUGGEST THAT?
FATIGUE + NERVOUS TOWARD GUYS.
KUZU ?!
WHOOSH
I DON'T MIND IF YOU USE ME HOW-EVER YOU WISH TODAY.
?!
NASTY!
THANK YOU FOR SAVING SETO.
FOR SOME REASON...
...I'M REALLY TIRED.
THAT'S DIRTY!!

YOU WANT TO KNOW IT?
YOU WANT TO KNOW SETO'S REAL NAME?
HIS REAL ...
...NAME.
ANYONE WOULD NOTICE SOMETHING THAT UNNATURAL.
YOU NOTICED?
I'M FINE WITH CALLING HIM THAT NOW.
I DO WANT TO KNOW.
BUT I'LL WAIT UNTIL SETO TELLS ME HIMSELF.
ON TOP OF THAT...
I CAN'T HELP SETO DISAPPEAR.
I WANT TO HELP SETO MEET HIS SISTER, BUT...
IT WAS A LITTLE SCARY BUT I'M GLAD IT SUCCEEDED.
YES, THAT'S FINE!
CAKE ?!
He's been smiling gently this whole time...
HEY...
I'M SORRY, SETO!
SO I WON'T LET HIM HAVE THE OPERATION.
...YOUVE BEEN UNABLE TO CALL SETO BY THAT NAME, HAVEN'T YOU?
AFTER YOU MET THE YOUNGER SISTER VERSION OF SETO...
YES?
YE...

SETO!
FROM NOW ON...
I'LL BE HAPPY IF THE THREE OF US CAN BE TOGETHER.
AND IF SETO'S YOUNGER SISTER CAN RETURN.
EVERYTHING IS CHANGING LITTLE BY LITTLE.
SOMEDAY, EVERYTHING WILL DEFINITELY BE BETTER.
I WANT TO KEEP CALLING OUT THIS SOUND TO YOU FOREVER.
SO I'M...
THE SOUND OF CALLING HIS SOUL.
THE SOUND THAT REACHED HIM.
"SETO" IS SETO'S NAME.
TO ME...
IT'S NOT THAT MEAN SMILE.
IT WAS JUST A SECOND BUT SOMEHOW ...
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY ...

HEAVEN'S WILL
The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY Satoru TAKAMIYA

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
HEAVEN'S WILL is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.
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DOPPELGANGER!

Satoru Takamiya was born in April and is a Capricorn. She has been a professional manga creator since 2001 when her series *Tenshi Tsuraku* (An Angel Falls Down) was first published. Since that time she has drawn a variety of other titles such as *Otogibanashi de Himitsu no Kisu* (Secret Fairytale Kiss), *Watashi no + Okusuri* (My Medicine), *Kusuriyubi Hime* (Ring Finger Princess), *Full Moon Joker*, and *Heaven's Will*. Currently she contributes regularly to *Chu Chu* magazine. When she's not drawing manga, reading books, watching movies or playing video games, she likes to eat yummy food. *Heaven's Will* is her first book to be published since she moved to Kyoto. She moves around quite a bit, but would like to stay put at least until her next comic is complete. Her official website is http://www.strangeparadise.fc2web.com.